Welcoming our new Principal
Introducing Professor Peter Mathieson

The big sleep-out
Helping to tackle homelessness

Queen’s Prize
Prestigious award for women’s health research

Show me Edinburgh
Edinburgh Global’s photography winners

Competition & giveaway
Win tickets for Sting’s new musical
Welcome to the spring edition of your staff magazine. In February, Professor Peter Mathieson took over from Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea as Principal and Vice-Chancellor. We meet Professor Mathieson on pages 8 and 9.

In February, the University was honoured for its pioneering work in women’s health research with the award of a Queen’s Anniversary Prize at Buckingham Palace (see facing page). This recognised the profound effect our work has had on the lives of women in every corner of the globe over the last 40 years.

In this issue we also highlight the amazing efforts of staff and students in supporting action to tackle homelessness in Scotland through Social Bite’s Sleep in the Park event at the end of last year (see pages 10 and 11).

On pages 12 and 13, we showcase some of the visually striking entries to the 2017 International Student Photography Competition. On the back cover, we give you the chance to win tickets to Sting’s acclaimed new musical The Last Ship.

If you would like to submit ideas or feedback to bulletin, please contact us at bulletin@ed.ac.uk or 0131 650 9747.

For regular updates, visit Staff News at www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff and follow us on Twitter @EdinUniStaff

Main Library turns 50

An intriguing new text sculpture by Turner Prize-nominated artist Nathan Coley has been installed in the Main Library.

Its title, The Basic Material is not the Word but the Letter, was taken from manuscripts in the University’s archive, and is intended to be left open to interpretation by the viewer.

The new work is part of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Main Library building, and will also form part of the University’s self-guided public art trail, which offers a different way of looking at art across the campus.

Thanks to readers of our public art feature last issue who pointed out that the dotted letters in Alec Finlay’s Mesostic Interleaved outside the library actually spell out the phrase ‘There to remain’, not ‘remain’.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/library50
Queen’s Anniversary Prize for women’s health research

The University received a prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize in February for its work to improve women’s health. The award recognises more than 40 years of research that has changed women’s lives around the world. Research at the University has helped to give millions of women access to safe and effective contraception, to develop life-saving treatments for breast and ovarian cancer, to preserve fertility in young women with cancer, and to understand the causes of painful conditions such as endometriosis.

Studies led by the University have also helped to cut rates of stillbirths and have led to better treatments for problems that arise during pregnancy, improving the health of pregnant women and the next generation.

The Queen’s Anniversary Prizes are part of the UK honours system and are awarded every two years. This is the fifth time overall, and the third in a row, that the University has been honoured in this way.

Pictured at Buckingham Palace after the prize-giving ceremony: Professor Jane Norman, Vice-Principal Equality and Diversity, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Mathieson and Ms Anne Richards, Vice-Convener of the University Court.

Ann Henderson elected Rector

Ann Henderson has been elected as the University’s 53rd Rector. She assumed her new role on 1 March and will preside at her first Court meeting on 23 April.

Ann won 77 per cent of the vote (2,324 votes) in defeating fellow candidate Marco Bauder. She is only the second woman to hold the role, Muriel Gray being the first, in 1988.

Ann is an alumna of the University – a graduate of sociology and social administration – and has been a lifelong campaigner in the labour movement for equality, fairness and social justice. She has worked in and around the Scottish Parliament for two decades and has served as Scotland Commissioner on the Women’s National Commission, and Assistant Secretary of the STUC.

The position of Rector – created by the Universities Scotland Act 1858 – has a long and prestigious history. It has been filled by eminent politicians and public figures, including Sir Winston Churchill and William Gladstone.

The Rector is elected for a period of three years and presides at the University's governing body, the University Court. The Rector also chairs meetings of the General Council in the absence of the Chancellor, and works closely with Edinburgh University Students’ Association.

www.ed.ac.uk/about/people/officials/rector
Look out for City Region Deal events

Launched events will take place across the University this spring to mark our role in the landmark Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.

Covering all main campuses, the roadshows will be hosted by Heads of College with talks from Vice- Principals, who will explain more about the Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Programme and the opportunities for staff. The City Region Deal is a £1 billion initiative that seeks to accelerate growth by investing in innovation, skills and infrastructure.

To register, please log in to MyEd and search for ‘City Region Deal’ in Event Booking.

Bill Gates visits Easter Bush

Bill Gates and Government Minister Penny Mordaunt visited the University’s Easter Bush campus in January to discuss and showcase how communities worldwide are being helped by innovative agricultural research in the UK.

The co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK International Development Secretary announced new funding for livestock and crop research, and formally launched the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, a £35 million initiative focused on safeguarding the future of the world’s food supplies.

In addition to world-class research, the Academy will offer undergraduate and postgraduate training, educational activities and resources to equip future leaders with the skills and knowledge required to tackle these challenges.

Roadshow dates and venues

- The King’s Buildings: Joseph Black Theatre, Wednesday 25 April, 12 noon
- Central Area: Teviot Lecture Theatre, Thursday 26 April, 1pm
- Easter Bush: Lecture Theatre 2, Vet School, Wednesday 9 May, 12 noon
- Western General: IGMM Lecture Theatre, Wednesday 9 May, 3pm
- Little France: Wellcome Auditorium, QMRI, Thursday 10 May, 10.30am
- Holyrood: Paterson’s Land LG34, Tuesday 15 May, 10am

New data regulations in May

On Friday 25 May, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force, replacing the Data Protection Act 1998 in regulating how we collect, use, store and dispose of personal data. Moreover, the GDPR places the onus for proving compliance firmly on the University.

To meet your data protection obligations, remember:

- When collecting personal data, provide a privacy notice detailing how data is used, with whom it is shared, and the retention period.
- Keep personal data secure, encrypting it where possible, and ensure you send emails to the correct recipient.
- Always carry out a data protection impact assessment when you plan a new initiative involving collecting or re-using personal data.
- Do not keep personal data longer than necessary.

The Data Protection Officer, Dr Rena Gertz, will begin data protection clinics on a rotational basis in all areas of the University from the middle of April.

For advice and guidance, please email Rena at dpo@ed.ac.uk www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/data-protection

University extends living wage pledge

The University has stepped up its commitment to paying a living wage by extending the benefit to regular contractors as well as employees.

The Living Wage is an hourly rate, independently calculated each year according to the costs of living. At £8.75 per hour, it is almost 17 per cent higher than the statutory minimum wage for over 25s of £7.50 per hour.

The University has paid its eligible staff the Living Wage rate since 2012. Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis.
Medical Quad renamed

The University’s Old Medical School courtyard is to be renamed in memory of the trailblazing doctor Elsie Inglis, who was one of Edinburgh’s first women graduates.

The announcement was made by the Chancellor, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, during her visit in November. A plaque highlighting the square’s revised name – the Dr Elsie Inglis Quadrangle – has been unveiled.

Dr Inglis is credited with saving thousands of lives after founding 17 Scottish Women’s Hospitals across Europe during the First World War. She also established a medical college for women and a maternity hospital for poor mothers in Edinburgh.

Gordon Aikman lecture theatre

George Square Lecture Theatre – the University’s largest on campus – is to be renamed in memory of Business School graduate Gordon Aikman, who raised more than £500,000 for research into motor neurone disease (MND).

The campaigner, who successfully lobbied the First Minister to publicly fund and double the number of specialist MND nurses across Scotland, died from the debilitating disease in February 2017.

In 2015, Gordon received an honorary doctorate from the University and a British Empire Medal in the Queen’s birthday honours. Both accolades recognised his work to raise awareness of MND and achieve better care and treatment for those diagnosed.

Honorary degree for China’s Vice Premier

The Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China, Madam Liu Yandong, was awarded an honorary degree at a ceremony in St Cecilia’s Hall in December. Madam Liu received the degree of Doctor of Letters from the the University’s recently retired Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, in recognition of her efforts to promote the teaching of Chinese language, cultural exchanges and a wider understanding of China.

As Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China, Madam Liu Yandong has played a major role in developing links between Scotland and China through her support of the Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University.

She has overseen the development of the Confucius network from around 40 institutes in 2006 to more than 550 across the world today.

Among others receiving honorary awards were children’s illustrator and author Mairi Hedderwick, Tate Modern Director Frances Morris and Refugee Council Chief Executive Maurice Wren.
research in focus

ESRIC wins Research Project of the Year

Edinburgh scientists have won a prestigious prize for their innovative use of imaging technology in biomedicine. Colleagues from the Edinburgh Super-Resolution Imaging Consortium (ESRIC) were awarded the 2017 Times Higher Education Research Project of the Year in the science and engineering category for their groundbreaking work on cell imaging in health and disease.

A collaboration between the University and Heriot-Watt University, ESRIC is an open-access facility designed to bring super-resolution microscopy techniques to the widest community of biomedical researchers. Since it was established in 2013, it has brought together scientists from several countries and different academic disciplines to better understand the mechanisms of disease in areas such as cancer, dementia and diabetes.

Brushing not enough for young teeth

Tooth-brushing only partly protects against the effects of sugary snacks on children's teeth, research suggests.

A study based on a sample of nearly 4,000 pre-school children shows snacking habits are most strongly associated with decay.

Researchers found children who snack all day – compared with just eating meals – are far more likely to have dental decay. They say the study shows that relying on tooth-brushing alone to ward off dental decay in children under five is not enough.

The study authors add that parental socioeconomic factors explain more of the difference in children's dental decay than diet or oral hygiene. They say that even though primary teeth are temporary, good oral hygiene habits are set in childhood, and this relates both to diet and tooth-brushing.

Social scientists from the University of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow used statistical models and survey data to predict dental decay by age five. Snacking was the factor most strongly associated with decay, with children who snack all day without eating meals having twice the chance of decay compared with those who did not snack at all.

New insight into rogue waves

New understanding of unusually large ocean waves could help inform the design of oil platforms and other offshore structures. Experiments carried out in the University's FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility have shown for the first time how large waves are affected by the angle at which they intersect.

So-called rogue waves – which are exceptionally powerful and dangerous – can be exacerbated when they are produced by two sets of waves crossing at a particular angle, the study has found.

Researchers used Flowave's unique 25-metre circular testing tank to study the complex interactions that occur when waves cross in open water. They showed that when waves intersect at an angle greater than approximately 60 degrees, they cause the surface level of the ocean to rise, which adds to the overall height of the combined wave that results.

This phenomenon is believed to have played a part in producing a 25-metre wave, known as the Draupner wave, which struck the Draupner platform in the North Sea in 1995.

Research in focus
Q-Step and astrobiology lead the way

The University’s successes in both transforming its teaching of quantitative methods and extending the reach of its astrobiology programmes have been recognised with two prestigious awards for innovative teaching.

Alison Koslowski, former Director of the Edinburgh Q-Step Centre, received a Chancellor’s Award for her distinguished leadership of the centre since its inception in 2013.

Edinburgh was one of 15 UK universities chosen to develop the groundbreaking programme, aimed at strengthening the data science skills of undergraduate social scientists, and now offers the most in-depth training of all of the UK Q-Step centres.

The initiative has transformed the opportunities for students to acquire advanced quantitative expertise, and now spans several Schools across the University, including Social & Political Science, Education, Law, Health in Social Science, and Mathematics. The Q-Step degree programmes include new courses, as well as opportunities for student placements with employers who use statistical expertise, potentially opening up job opportunities after graduation, and helping to address a skills gap across the UK workplace.

The second Chancellor’s Award was made to Charles Cockell, Chair of Astrobiology in the School of Physics & Astronomy, in recognition of his outstanding innovation and impact in teaching astrobiology within and beyond the University. This includes a new undergraduate programme that attracts 200 students from around 10 of our Schools each year, a MOOC that has reached more than 120,000 students, and an outreach initiative called the Astrobiology Academy that works with Scottish schools and now also the Scottish Prison Service.

The Academy develops lesson plans with teachers and this year will launch its new primary to secondary school transition unit across Scottish local authorities, while its new Life Beyond programme helps to teach science to prisoners. This year inmates at HMP Glenochil will start crop growth in the 'Mars biopod' polytunnel, the first life support project to be run from a prison.

Widening access for adult learners

As part of its ongoing commitment to widening participation, the University has launched a new flexible, part-time programme for adults who have taken time out of education and who wish to prepare for a degree or further study in our College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

The programme is delivered by the Centre for Open Learning (COL), and is open to those who may not have completed Highers, A-levels or an equivalent qualification, and who have had a continuous gap of at least three years in their formal education.

The Access Programme, which has been developed by some of the University’s leading academics, will run from August to May, and no prior qualifications are needed in order to apply.

Students on the programme will be fully matriculated with the University of Edinburgh, and will need to devote around 20 hours each week to their studies, made up of around seven hours of tutor-led classes, as well as independent study, additional activities and visits.

Classes will be based at the University’s Holyrood Campus, with both daytime and evening options available, except for the art and design subjects, which are daytime only.

The full programme fees are £636, for which there may be funding available from the Student Awards Agency Scotland.

Short courses staff discount

The Centre for Open Learning (COL) offers open access credit and non-credit courses across a variety of subject areas, all of which are available to staff at a 10 per cent discount. These range from practical art and digital media courses to a wide range of language, science, history, literature, legal and social studies.

To see the 2017/18 brochure or find out more, visit www.ed.ac.uk/short-courses or drop in to COL reception at Paterson’s Land during office hours.
Lending an ear

The University’s new Principal and Vice-Chancellor took office in February. Here he talks to bulletin about his first weeks in his new role.
What are your early thoughts on taking over as Principal at Edinburgh and what has struck you most in your early weeks in post?

I knew before I came here that the University of Edinburgh had a great reputation and a fabulous heritage, and that it was located in one of the world’s greatest cities. Nothing that has happened since my arrival has changed that view. Events such as the pensions dispute and the recent severe weather have demanded a large amount of my time and there hasn’t been much opportunity yet for forward planning in detail, but my wife Tina and I feel privileged to be here and I am honoured by the opportunity to lead this fine University into the next stage of its development.

You were previously Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. You faced some challenging times there – what lessons have you learned from that period that may inform your period in office at Edinburgh?

Hong Kong is a complicated place where I soon learned that it was impossible to please everyone (sometimes it seemed impossible to please anyone!) so I simply always tried to do and say what I believed to be in the best interests of the University of Hong Kong.

In these early weeks and months what are your main priorities and ambitions?

Clearly my early weeks have been dominated by the pensions dispute and its ramifications for our staff, our students and the wider higher education sector. At least I have had the opportunity to meet with large numbers of staff and students, even if I would have preferred a different set of circumstances. My aim for the first few months was always to meet people, listen to and understand the issues which they consider the most important and then work with my colleagues to design and deliver strategies and policies which address the issues. My hope is that soon we will be able to broaden the debate.

The higher education sector is going through a turbulent period with the recent industrial action and media scrutiny over vice-chancellor’s pay, to name but two issues. How do you handle these challenges when they become matters of public interest?

We have to accept that university matters are of public and political interest. We need to better articulate the value of universities to society, especially that ‘other 50 per cent’ which does not have the opportunity to directly engage with us.

What is your personal style as a leader?

I try to be accessible, consistent and reasonable. I am keen to listen to experts and am willing to admit when I am wrong. I passionately believe in the transformative power of education and point to make is welcome to write to me: I read all my own emails even if I am not always able to personally reply to it all.

How do you relax and unwind when you take time out?

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than spending precious time with my loved ones. I am interested in sport, photography, travel and food but above all I am interested in people.

Life notes

• Professor Mathieson joins Edinburgh from the University of Hong Kong where he was President and Vice-Chancellor, having previously been Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Bristol.

• Professor Mathieson holds a first-class honours degree in medicine from the University of London and a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

• As well as leading the University, Professor Mathieson has already taught second-year medical students as part of their undergraduate programme, lecturing on kidney physiology and disease.

• He is married to Tina, an orthodontist, and they have two grown-up children and a young grandson.
In December, staff and students slept out in sub-zero temperatures and raised £65,000 to help house homeless people in Scotland.

More than 8,000 people, including staff and students, slept out in Princes Street Gardens at an overnight event to highlight homelessness, with celebrities providing entertainment, including music, comedy and a bedtime story.

Organised by Social Bite and hosted by comedian Rob Brydon, Sleep in the Park featured performances by former Oasis singer Liam Gallagher and Scottish artists Deacon Blue, Frightened Rabbit and Amy MacDonald. Live Aid organiser Sir Bob Geldof paid tribute to the thousands taking part, and the Monty Python actor John Cleese read those attending a bedtime story.

Working with the City of Edinburgh Council, Social Bite aims to create a ‘village’ of small, two-person ‘NestHouses’ in the Granton area of the city, so that up to 20 people at a time can be supported to rebuild their lives.

Social Bite was co-founded by Edinburgh alumnus Josh Littlejohn MBE, who graduated in 2009 with a degree in Economics and Politics. All the profits from the social enterprise’s five sandwich shops across Scotland are given to good causes, and a quarter of its staff were formerly homeless. Josh was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science in Social Science last year for his work with Social Bite.

In the run up to the sleep-out, staff and student teams organised quiz nights and other events raising an incredible £65,000 of the £3.7 million total. As a result the University is now able to sponsor one of the specially designed new NestHouses in Granton.

Through their donations and efforts, staff and students have also supported the wider Housing First initiative, through which several housing associations have pledged to provide almost 500 homes for homeless people in the central belt over the next 18 months.

sleepinthepark.co.uk
social-bite.co.uk
I think each and every one of us never felt such a great appreciation of what we all have after that night. Gillian Scott from Estates writes:

I think each and every one of us never felt such a great appreciation of what we all have after that night – a warm home to go to every night, and a hot cup of tea whenever we want. The simple things we completely take for granted. We are also acutely aware of how hardy homeless people are – having to endure that every single night with no end in sight, no 'warming tents' to go into, no hot water points and no-one to ensure you are safe from harm.

All of us really struggled that night, and not one of us would ever want to do it again. The strength and stamina it would take to endure and survive that, night after night, is extraordinary, and incredibly humbling.
Show me Edinburgh

*bulletin* showcases the winners of the 2017 Edinburgh Global student photography competition.

Now in its ninth year, the competition is for all current international students, students who have had a ‘Go Abroad’ experience, and online learners outside the UK.

This year’s theme was *Show me Edinburgh*, and the winning images were chosen by a panel of independent judges for originality, interpretation and visual impact.

To view the gallery online or to download the 2018 calendar, visit www.ed.ac.uk/photo-competition
1. Category Prize, Experiences – Arthur’s Seat by Vlada Kravtsova from Russia.
2. Second Prize – a highland cow in the Pentlands by Ashley Lee from the USA.
3. Category Prize, Abroad – sunrise at Crater Lake National Park by Alice Bromfield from the UK.
4. Festival fireworks over Edinburgh Castle by Derrick Ng from Malaysia.
5. Principal’s Choice Prize – a Meadows winter reflection by Jun Hao Lee from Malaysia.
6. Category Prize, Community – Edinburgh summer life by Jaanvi Gopalakrishnan from India.
7. Category Prize, Viewpoints – a rainy view from Calton Hill by Sheng Zhu from China.
8. People’s Choice Prize – a twilight view over Edinburgh by Cheuk Yin Yip from Hong Kong.
9. First Prize – a spectacular night view from Calton Hill by Jiakang Yang from China.
The details of all academic staff awarded chairs at the University are recorded in the professorial roll. This is updated annually, with new professors being invited to add their signature at a special ceremony in the January following their appointment. This year, 68 new and recently appointed professors were invited to a ceremony held in St Cecilia’s Hall, hosted by Senior Vice-Principal Charlie Jeffery.

**Signing the roll**

The signature of Joseph Lister from 1869.

College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

- **Rowena Arshad**
  Personal Chair of Anti-Racist and Multicultural Education

- **Stefan Bilbao**
  Personal Chair of Acoustics and Audio Signal Processing

- **Stephen D Bowd**
  Personal Chair of Early Modern History

- **Alexandra Braun**
  Lord President Reid Chair of Law

- **Mary Brennan**
  Personal Chair of Food Marketing and Society

- **Matthew Chrismas**
  Personal Chair of Ethics and Epistemology

- **Doreen Coyle**
  Chair of Languages Education and Classroom Pedagogies

- **Luis Duarte d’Almeida**
  Personal Chair of Jurisprudence

- **Paul J du Plessis**
  Personal Chair of Roman Law

- **Adam Fox**
  Personal Chair of Social History

- **David Fox**
  Personal Chair of Common Law

- **Frances J Greene**
  Chair of Entrepreneurship

- **Jens Hagendorff**
  Chair of Finance

- **Aisha Holloway**
  Chair of Nursing Studies

- **Wenxuan Hou**
  Personal Chair of Corporate Finance

- **Alison Koslowski**
  Personal Chair of Social Policy and Research Methods

- **Andrew Lang**
  Personal Chair of International Law and Global Governance

- **Linda McKie**
  Personal Chair of Sociology and Social Policy

- **Aaron William Moore**
  Handa Chair of Japanese-Chinese Relations

- **Stephen Neff**
  Personal Chair of War and Peace

- **Jamal Ouenniche**
  Personal Chair of Business Analytics

- **Lara Ryazanova-Clarke**
  Personal Chair of Russian and Sociolinguistics

- **Kenny Smith**
  Personal Chair of Evolutionary Linguistics

- **Genevieve Warwick**
  Personal Chair of History of Art

- **Nuala Zahedieh**
  Personal Chair of Economic and Social History
College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Liz Baggs
Chair of Food and Environmental Security
Matthew Bailey
Personal Chair of Renal Physiology
James P Boardman
Personal Chair of Neonatal Medicine
Barend Mark Bronsvooort
Personal Chair of Veterinary Epidemiology
Kev Dhaliwal
Personal Chair of Molecular Imaging and Healthcare Technology
Appolinaire Djikeng
Chair of Tropical Agriculture and Sustainable Development
David Dockrell
Chair of Infection Medicine
Ian Duguid
Personal Chair of Cellular and Systems Neuroscience
Elizabeth Grant
Personal Chair of Global Health and Development
David C Hay
Personal Chair of Tissue Engineering
Caroline Hayward
Personal Chair of Quantitative Trait Genetics
Jayne Hope
Personal Chair of Immunology
Ross Houston
Personal Chair of Aquaculture Genetics
Rowland Kao
Sir Timothy O’Shea Chair of Veterinary Epidemiology and Data Science
Richard Mellanby
Personal Chair of Comparative Medicine
Harish Nair
Personal Chair of Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Global Health
Steven Pollard
Personal Chair of Stem Cell and Cancer Biology
Sir John Savill
Regius Chair of Medical Science
Geoff Simm
Personal Chair of Global Agriculture and Food Security
Tara Spires-Jones
Personal Chair of Neurodegeneration
Sarah Walmsley
Personal Chair of Respiratory Medicine
Mick Watson
Personal Chair of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
Scott P Webster
Personal Chair of Medicines Discovery

College of Science & Engineering

Rosalind Allen
Personal Chair of Biological Physics
Arend Bayer
Personal Chair of Algebraic Geometry
Philip Camp
Personal Chair of Theoretical Chemistry
Romeel Davé
Chair of Physics
Xianfeng Fan
Personal Chair of Particulate Materials Processing
Stephen Jon Finney
Chair of Power Electronics
Alison Nicola Hulme
Personal Chair of Synthesis and Chemical Biology
Simon Kelley
Chair of Isotope Geochemistry
Andrew Kerr
Personal Chair of Climate and Low Carbon Innovation
Victoria J Martin
Personal Chair of Collider Physics
Francisca Mutapi
Personal Chair of Global Health Infection and Immunity
Daniel Nussey
Personal Chair of Evolutionary Ecology
Pankaj Pankaj
Personal Chair of Computational Biomechanics
J Murray Roberts
Chair of Applied Marine Biology
Guido Sanguinetti
Personal Chair of Computational Bioinformatics
Eric C Schirmer
Personal Chair of Nuclear Envelope Biology
Michael Shaver
Personal Chair of Polymer Chemistry
Dušan Uhrin
Personal Chair of NMR Spectroscopy
Mark Van Rossum
Personal Chair of Computational Neuroscience
Roman Zwicky
Personal Chair of Theoretical High Energy Physics
New Year’s Honours

Several colleagues from the Colleges and Court were recognised in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list.

Professor Lesley McAra, Professor of Penology and Assistant Principal for Community Engagement, has been made a CBE for services to criminology.

Professor Andrew Morris, Director of the Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics, and Vice-Principal, Data Science, has been made a CBE for services to science in Scotland.

Professor Kathy Whaler, Chair of Geophysics at the University, has been awarded an OBE for services to geophysics.

Professor Margaret Frame, Professor of Cancer Research and Science Director at the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre, has been awarded an OBE for her services to cancer research.

Ms Hayley Walters, Welfare and Anaesthesia Veterinary Nurse at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, received an MBE for services to veterinary education and animal welfare.

Lady Susan Rice CBE, of the University Court, has been made a dame in recognition of her services to business, the arts and charity in Scotland.

The Very Reverend Professor Iain R Torrance received a knighthood in recognition of his service to the Church, theological education, interfaith dialogue, the British Army and work to combat homophobia.

Reverend Torrance is an Honorary Professor in Early Christian Doctrine and Ethics in the School of Divinity.

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

Professors Charles Cockell, Chair of Astrobiology in the School of Physics & Astronomy, and Alison Koslowski, Personal Chair on Social Policy and Research Methods in the School of Social & Political Science, both won awards for innovative teaching (see page 7).

Professor Polly Arnold, Crum Brown Chair of Chemistry in the School of Chemistry, won the award for research, while Professor Francisca Mutapi, Personal Chair in Global Health Infection and Immunity in the School of Biological Sciences, received the award for impact.

There were two rising star awards this year – Professor Devi Sridhar, Personal Chair in Global Public Health at the Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics in the Edinburgh Medical School, and Dr Mirko Canevaro, Reader in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology.

30 under 30 award

Hazel Marzetti, Academic Developer (Learning & Teaching Enhancement) in the Institute for Academic Development, was included in YWCA Scotland’s 30 Under 30 Inspiring Women: 2017 Edition in recognition of her mentoring and volunteering work, her support for LGBT+ culture and community, and her achievements in improving both inclusive learning and the way students receive feedback.

www.ywcascotland.org/hazel-marzetti/

Two new interim directors

James Saville has been appointed Interim Director of Human Resources while a successor is appointed for Zoe Lewandowski, who moved on from the University at the end of February. James has been Director of People, Operations and Systems at the UK Department for International Development since 2012.

Lisa Dawson is the new Interim Director of Student Systems and Administration while Barry Neilson is seconded to the Service Excellence Programme. Previously Head of Student Systems Operations, Lisa now has responsibility for Student Systems, Timetabling and Exams, and Student Administrative Services.
In memoriam:
Lord Sutherland of Houndwood (1941–2018)

Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, has died aged 76.

The crossbench peer was considered the architect of free personal care in Scotland, as well as being credited with transforming the University’s culture and finances during his tenure from 1994 to 2002. It was during his time at Edinburgh that he chaired a Royal Commission on long-term care of older people, which issued its report in 1999. Prior to this, as Chief Inspector of Schools and the Head of Ofsted from 1992 to 1994, he commissioned an inquiry into the declining popularity of science, and was the author of the section of the Dearing Report dealing with teacher education and training.

An intellectual and a theologian who did not shrink from the most challenging social issues of his day, he was also described as being ‘unashamedly Scottish’. He served as president of both the Saltire Society, which aims to promote Scotland’s cultural heritage, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, as well as the Royal Institute of Philosophy, and was appointed a Knight of the Order of the Thistle, the highest honour in Scotland, in 2002.

Lord Sutherland is survived by his wife Sheena, their daughters Fiona and Kirsty, and their son Duncan.

In memoriam:
Jon Oberlander (1962–2017)

The School of Informatics writes: It was with immense sadness that the University learned in December of the passing of our dear colleague, Jon Oberlander.

The School stopped in its tracks when the news of Jon’s passing reached us. He was a driving force behind the Bayes Centre, a strong leader for everyone in the Institute for Language, Cognition and Computation, an inspiring figure for all of us in the School of Informatics, and a visionary who promoted science engagement with non-scientific audiences. An excellent teacher and mentor to all students. We will all miss him.

A service in celebration of Jon’s life was held in the Playfair Library in January, at which there was only standing room at the back, and where those closest to Jon paid tribute to him as an academic, friend, colleague and loved one.

John is survived by his wife Vena, daughter Liberty and sons Hugh and Seth. Hugh cited his father’s watchwords of compassion, curiosity and doing what you love as being a worthy code by which to live one’s life to the full.

Jon loved walking and talking in the Scottish countryside and admired the work of The Woodland Trust. Donations can be made in his memory at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jon-oberlander

Jon Oberlander FRSE was Professor of Epistemics at the School of Informatics, Director of the Institute for Language, Cognition and Computation, Director of the Bayes Centre (formerly Data Technology Institute) and Assistant Principal Data Technology.

New social enterprise adviser

Lorna Baird has joined the University as its first business adviser specialising in social enterprise.

Lorna is based within Edinburgh Innovations, and is available to give advice and guidance to staff, students and alumni who wish to set up a business which has a social purpose at its heart.

Lorna has worked at Business Gateway Edinburgh, advising start-up and growth social enterprises based in the city, and as Business Support Manager for Social Investment Scotland, running the Asda Social Enterprise Supplier Development Academy, where she helped product-based social enterprises achieve national deals with the supermarket giant. She also managed a start-up which supported people with learning disabilities to run their own micro businesses.

Lorna.Baird@ed.ac.uk
launch.ed.ac.uk/launch-ed-services

Leverhulme award for Divinity

Dr Naomi Appleton of the School of Divinity has been awarded a £100,000 Philip Leverhulme Prize for Philosophy and Theology, to investigate the Jataka tales – a collection of hundreds of stories of the past lives of the Buddha.

Dr Appleton plans to create an online searchable database of Jataka stories in the texts and art of South Asia, which is a highly influential genre in Buddhist history and culture.

The Philip Leverhulme Prizes are awarded annually by the Leverhulme Trust in recognition of outstanding researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition, and whose future career is exceptionally promising.
Going for the Gold Coast

While many of us will be planning summer holidays, University swimming coach Chris Jones will be contemplating a very different trip – to the Commonwealth Games in April – writes Melissa Steel.

"We fly out two weeks prior to the Games for a training camp in Brisbane", explains Chris Jones, Head of Performance Swimming at the University. Chris is on the coaching staff for a group of Team Scotland athletes from the University, with the swimmers making up around half of the 20 or so students competing in a variety of disciplines including hockey, athletics and rugby sevens.

"Typically, we train twice a day and we have just returned from a warm weather training camp in Tenerife," says Chris. So, spare a thought for our hard-working coaches and swimmers sweating it out in the Spanish heat if Tenerife is on your holiday wish list!

Olympics is the pinnacle of swimming as a sport, so it really was a great honour to represent the University there, alongside our talented swimmers."

Chris is equally excited about returning to the Gold Coast as a Scotland and University coach. "This will be my third Games with Team Scotland and a milestone 10th year of the Performance Swimming Programme at Edinburgh. We took three University swimmers to Delhi in 2010, eight to Glasgow in 2014 and it is looking like we may have 13 heading to Australia. Expectations are a little higher now, but we have quality athletes that I am proud of – I am excited to see their performances."

It’s not just Chris who contributes to these athletes’ success, he is keen to point out. "Our Director, Jim Aitken, and Head of Performance Sport, Claire Cruikshank, have been instrumental in setting up a world-class performance programme. We are also supported by a team of strength and conditioning experts, as well as the FASIC Sport & Exercise Medicine Clinic. Of course, my fellow coaches, Mat Trodden, Shannon Rollason, John Szaranek and Mark Jaggs, all help make the programme the best it can be, too."

Behind the scenes, Chris is also a dad of twins and juggling work and parenting like many other staff members. "It definitely gives you a new perspective on the work-life balance. I will have to schedule my Skype calls while I am away in Australia!"

Try out an eCycle

Easy-to-use electric bicycles are available to staff to trial free for a month in order to help them decide if they would like to buy their own ‘eCycle’. The bikes require little effort, and the battery can last for between 30 and 70km.

Staff member Simon Christie tried an eCycle in December and described it in his blog as “the quickest, most cost-effective and most environmentally friendly way to travel” – see sustainability.ed.ac.uk/blog/2018/simonchristie

Eligible staff can use the Cycle to Work scheme to save at least 25 per cent on up to £1000 of the cost of a bike and accessories. This can be used for any bike – electric or normal – and is repaid through salary deductions.

www.ed.ac.uk/cycling

Expectations are a little higher now, but we have quality athletes that I am proud of – I am excited to see their performances.

The intensive preparation during the run-up to the Games did not end in the Canary Islands, though. "The Edinburgh International Swim Meet [at which University of Edinburgh Swim Team claimed six British titles and 13 medals in early March] will hopefully be a good indicator of performance on the Gold Coast and an opportunity to do any fine tuning before we head to Australia," says Chris.

The Gold Coast, where Chris lived at the start of his coaching career, and Tenerife are not the only exotic locations he goes to in the line of duty. Chris was on the coaching staff for Rio 2016, assisting University swimmers Nick Quinn (Ireland) and Yvette Kong (Hong Kong) as they pursued Olympic glory. "It was an awesome experience," Chris says. “The

New cycle spaces at gym

Forty-nine new cycle spaces are being created at the Pleasance gym during March to May, with funding support from Cycling Scotland. This will lead to both the temporary closure of the car park, and a permanent reduction in car parking spaces in the gym courtyard. Blue Badge holders are asked to contact the centre during the works.
Neil McGillivray is the programme lead for the Student Administration and Support (SA&S) strand of the Service Excellence Programme. Here he tells bulletin about his working day.

Please explain your job in a nutshell
I work closely with academic and professional services colleagues across the University to challenge our current thinking and identify improvements that will benefit both our staff and students. I am responsible for ensuring that we develop solutions to deliver improved services in a consistent and standardised way – services that will help us to work smarter, not harder.

What are your main goals?
To encourage increased levels of staff and student involvement in the programme, and to deliver better business processes that will empower them. Our aim is to provide easy-to-access guidance, care and support, when and where they need it. We want to provide an excellent quality of service regardless of School, College, programme or location.

What projects are you working on at the moment?
We’re currently focusing on the development of final business cases (which is the implementation plan) in the areas of student immigration, working and study away, special circumstances, coursework extensions and concessions. After that we’ll focus on timetabling, and the preparation for Phase 3 of the SA&S programme.

Who do you deal with week to week?
I’m regularly in contact with academic and professional services staff across the University. Our programme vision places students and staff at the heart of an excellent student administration and support environment, meaning regular contact with staff across the institution is an essential activity.

Get organised…
Desk: organised or a beautiful mess?
Not as tidy as it should be!

Routine, or take it as it comes?
I always need to have a plan.

Are you a list person?
I send myself emails, my inbox is my list.

Daily staples?
Greggs fruit scones.

Favourite lunch spots?
It’s a long time since I had lunch!

… and now relax
Favourite pastimes?
I’m an Aberdeen fan, so I try to get up north as often as I can. I enjoy running, watching my daughters play football, the cinema and work-free weekends. Can’t beat being in the sun, swimming in the sea or jumping the waves though.

Best time of year, and why?
Summer, I love being outside, and the warmer weather.

Perfect Sunday afternoon?
Probably a few drinks in a beer garden.

Ideal holiday?
Somewhere hot, or a city break with lots to see.

To find out more about the Service Excellence Programme, visit www.ed.ac.uk/service-excellence-programme.

To see a short video interview of Neil, search the University website for “SEP: a manager’s view”.

Please describe a typical day
No two days are the same, and things can change without warning! I always feel busy… usually running between meetings, updating on programme progress and facilitating discussion.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?
Helping to shape our future approach to student administration and the student experience, by thinking about ways to transform SA&S by simplifying and standardising complex processes. Also, working with such a great team and a wide range of colleagues to deliver enhancements that will benefit so many people across the institution.
Spot the difference and win two tickets to Sting’s new musical, The Last Ship, at the Festival Theatre on Tuesday 12 June at 7.30pm.

An epic tale of community, hope and collective will, The Last Ship follows a sailor returning from 17 years at sea to find the local ship yard closing. For your chance to win two tickets for Tuesday 12 June, circle the five differences in the two images below, and send your entry to us by Friday 18 May.

You can post your entry to Bulletin Competition, Communications and Marketing, 5 Forrest Hill, EH1 2EG or email it to bulletin@ed.ac.uk. The draw will be made and the winner notified on Monday 21 May.

Last issue’s competition was won by Beth Munro in Development & Alumni.

The Last Ship is at the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh, from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 June.

www.capitaltheatres.com