Widening participation
What it means to us

Teaching Awards 2016/17
Celebrating the best of our teaching

Building for the future
How our relationship with industry is changing

Broadening global horizons
A new global engagement plan and vision

Competition & giveaway
Win tickets for the Festival fireworks
Widening access to higher education is a priority that many of our staff and students feel passionate about. Our cover story (pages 12–15) looks at some of the people behind our many initiatives and successes.

Teaching is at the heart of what we do, and we are proud to celebrate the winners of this year’s Edinburgh University Students’ Association Teaching Awards on pages 16–17.

New breakthroughs and the accelerating pace of change in technology mean that academia is engaging with industry like never before. We discover on pages 10–11 how and why the University is such a great place to do business.

This August sees the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh International Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and, as we find out on pages 20–21, the University has had a long history of involvement. To celebrate, we are giving away two bandstand tickets for the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert as our competition prize on page 27, with runner-up prizes of tickets to a cabaret show at The Hub.

A detail from an illustration of 10 snail shells collected by Charles Darwin while on St Helena in July 1836, during HMS Beagle’s return voyage from the Galapagos Islands. The shells are part of our unique Centre for Research Collections and were drawn by Katy Wiedemann (pictured) for our Biological Sciences postgraduate brochure while she was an MA Illustration postgraduate. Katy herself discovered the tiny tenth shell hiding away inside one of the others.

Our 20 postgraduate brochures, which feature a range of illustrations from the Drawn to Edinburgh series, have been nominated for a 2017 Heist education marketing award.

Drawn to Edinburgh, a free exhibition of illustrations by our Edinburgh College of Art students will run at the Scottish Storytelling Centre from 31 July to 24 August (see back cover).
Appointment of next Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Peter Mathieson has been appointed as the next Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Professor Mathieson is currently President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. His background is in medical research and teaching, specialising in renal medicine, and before taking up the post in Hong Kong he was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Bristol for six years.

He holds a first-class honours degree in medicine from the University of London and a PhD from the University of Cambridge, where he later went on to become Director of Studies for Clinical Medicine at Christ’s College.

The new Principal will take office on 5 February 2018, and the current Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, has kindly agreed to remain in post until then.

McEwan hall to be used for July graduations

The first round of graduations in the newly refurbished McEwan Hall will take place in July, ahead of the final completion of the £33 million restoration project to reinvigorate the building later this year.
Ongoing Brexit support for staff

The University is offering a range of advice and support to staff and students and their families who may be affected by Brexit, including legal sessions and consultations, reduced legal fees, interest-free loans and practical help to support applications.

A new Regional Director Europe, Derek Macleod, has been appointed and the University is in the process of recruiting a new Staff Immigration Adviser.

For full up-to-date information, visit the University and Europe website at www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/news/support-for-eea-staff-and-staff-with-eea-partners

Low–carbon business scheme open to staff

The Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), based at the University, has been named the official partner of Climate-KIC in Scotland. ECCI will support Climate-KIC in its role as Europe’s largest public-private innovation partnership, focused on climate change.

Scottish entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to bid for funding and dedicated support through the Climate-KIC Centre, which is supported by the European Union.

The initiative is open to staff and students at Edinburgh.

ECCI will be one of four centres in the UK and Ireland, and the first in Scotland, for Climate-KIC, which seeks to help tackle climate change through partnerships between the private, public and academic sectors. The Scottish centre will focus on developing low–carbon ideas in the use of data and on the themes of rural areas and water.

Main Library open 24/7

Since March this year, the Main Library is now open to students and staff all night. The lowest three floors will stay open, and students on the higher floors will be asked to move down at midnight until 7.30am.

As part of the same arrangement, the large computer lab in the basement of the Hugh Robson Building and the computing lab in High School Yards now close at 10pm and re-open at 7.30am, during which time students are asked to move to the Main Library.

It is intended that the Hugh Robson computer lab will be open during peak times of the year, such as examination periods.

Visitor Centre online shop launched

The Visitor Centre’s new online shop launched in April, showcasing the wide range of quality clothing, hand-crafted gifts and accessories, and other University-branded merchandising available to staff, students and alumni.

To save VAT on departmental orders, authorised staff should continue to use the electronic internal transfer (eIT) system, but you can now keep abreast of the Visitor Centre’s latest offers and promotions and also register for its mailing list by visiting www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk

Historic buildings book supports scholarships

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has commissioned a new photographic book about the University’s historic buildings, with all profits going towards a new scholarship initiative. Building Knowledge: An Architectural History of the University of Edinburgh will be launched at St Cecilia’s Hall on 30 June, and tells the story of the University’s first college buildings through to the magnificence of Robert Adam’s Old College and beyond.

The book is co-authored by Nick Haynes and Clive Fenton and will be on sale from the University Visitor Centre and from the HES online bookshop.

The O’Shea Global Scholars Initiative will provide a range of scholarships to bring people to the University, in person and virtually, and send Edinburgh students abroad. To find out more about the scheme, please contact En-Chi Liu on 0131 650 2788.
SEP moves forward

The Service Excellence Programme (SEP) Board has approved proposals to move the programme into the next phase of activity.

The SEP is a University-wide programme to transform how we deliver our professional services. A great deal of work and consultation has already taken place, with more than 148 workshops held and engagement of various kinds with 1,400 colleagues.

The SEP Board will produce a five-year plan to support the programme delivery. Work will continue on the programme strands designed to enhance the effectiveness of our student administration and support, HR and Finance services across the University, underpinned by work on the core systems that support these activities.

In approving the proposals, the SEP Board has been very mindful of the scale of business transformation being undertaken, its importance in realising the unambiguous priority of the University to improve the student experience, and the fact that our current HR system has a date confirmed when it will no longer be supported by our supplier.

The team responsible for the work on our student recruitment and admissions strand is considering how a phased approach, and integration with ‘business as usual’ activity, could enable the delivery of a number of prioritised projects.

Edinburgh is also now part of the UniForum Programme, a Russell Group initiative, which will identify how many people are working on defined activities that support teaching and research across the University. This will allow us to accurately compare our support services with the rest of the Russell Group, and, through a professional services effectiveness survey, to understand staff views on the effectiveness of the services provided.

The SEP teams are being developed, and staff will see an increase in visible activity and communication across the University as the programme moves into the next phase and engages with and involves people more closely.

Staff discounts on vet services

Staff are entitled to discounts of up to 25 per cent on the University’s veterinary care services.

A 10 per cent discount is available to staff and students at the University whose pets receive treatment at the Dick Vet Practices and Hospitals.

In addition, a 25 per cent discount is offered on referral consultations to those whose pets require to be referred from the Dick Vet Small Animal Practice to specialist referral services.

The Dick Vet practices and referral hospitals, based at the University’s Easter Bush Campus, are internationally recognised as centres of clinical excellence.

in brief

Relaunch of LGBT network
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Staff Network has relaunched as the University of Edinburgh Staff Pride Network. The group welcomes all those who self-identify as part of LGBT+ communities, regardless of identity or background, and provides a space where all can feel safe and included. The network holds informal events as well as lectures and seminars.

To find out more please visit www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/governance-committees/staff-pride-network

New online Estates helpdesk
The Estates Department has launched a new online helpdesk to allow staff to request services or submit building faults online. The helpdesk is managed by a team of four dedicated technicians who manage around 20 fault reports a day. The building maintenance work is then routed to around 75 tradespeople via their smart phones, to ensure a quick response.

To find out more about the service and who your nominated reporter is, visit www.ed.ac.uk/estates/estates-helpdesk-services

Nursery appeal for ‘loose parts’
Arcadia nursery at King’s Buildings would welcome donations of loose parts for children to engage and play with as part of their learning experience. Loose parts are any materials that can safely be moved, carried or recombined in multiple ways, for example stones, sand, fabric, balls, buckets, boxes, shells, pine cones, etc.

Please contact the nursery on 0131 650 7007 to find out if your donation is suitable.

To find out more, please contact the Service Excellence Lead, Barry Neilson, at Barry.Neilson@ed.ac.uk
Infections that pose greatest pandemic risk identified

Using the method that had already predicted the threat of Ebola and Zika viruses before they emerged to cause major epidemics, Professor Mark Woolhouse and his team in the Division of Infection and Pathway Medicine have pinpointed more than 30 infections that are likely candidates for the next major pandemic.

Their analysis identifies 37 different viruses that have already shown some ability to spread between people – but have not so far caused major epidemics. Some of these – including MERS coronavirus, relatives of the Ebola virus and several mosquito-borne viruses – have caused disease outbreaks in the past and are of greatest concern.

These zoonotic infections could pose a major threat to human health if they become able to spread more easily between people. The team advised that surveillance of these viruses should be stepped up to avoid major public health crises, such as that seen in West Africa during the recent Ebola outbreak.

The study, published in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, was funded by the Wellcome Trust’s Vietnam Initiative on Zoonotic Infections and by the European Union COMPARE project.

£10m deal to boost impact of animal science innovations

Innovations that improve the health of farmed animals and raise agricultural productivity are being brought to market with the support of a £10 million investment.

Roslin Technologies, which was launched to commercialise the world-leading animal science research from the Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, secured the funding in April.

The deal will allow researchers to explore the commercial potential of technologies that enable low-cost manufacturing of new medicines using chicken eggs.

Methods of preserving frozen stocks of reproductive material from bird species are set to benefit from the funding, helping to safeguard the future of rare bird species, which may carry useful genetic information that makes them resistant to diseases.

The company will also bring to market new veterinary vaccines and tools for diagnosing diseases that affect farmed animals.

Shaping the future with 4D printing

Dr Jin Sun from the Institute for Infrastructure and Environment has been awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering and Leverhulme Trust senior research fellowship. Dr Sun is working on a project on 4D printing, an emerging technology that directly prints 3D structures that reshape themselves or self-assemble over time, responding to external stimuli such as, for example, being submerged in water.

4D printing holds great promise in a broad range of applications such as civil infrastructure, embedded electronics, tissue engineering and drug delivery. The fellowship will allow Dr Sun to consolidate his research in fundamental rheology – the study of the flow and elasticity of matter – and pave the way for new related technologies.
Almost a fifth of world’s food wasted

A study led by Dr Peter Alexander of the School of GeoSciences (with Scotland’s Rural College) suggests that the world’s population eats around 10 per cent more food than it needs, while almost nine per cent is thrown away or left to spoil.

The study was carried out in collaboration with the University of York, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research. It used data collected mainly by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation, and examined 10 key stages in the global food system, including food consumption and the growing and harvesting of crops.

Efforts to reduce the billions of tonnes lost could improve global food security – ensuring everyone has access to a safe, affordable and nutritious diet – and help prevent damage to the environment, it suggests.

Encouraging people to eat fewer animal products, reduce waste and not exceed their nutritional needs could all help to reverse the trend, the research team concluded.

Edible insects could also play a part in this, the team suggests.

Replacing half of the meat eaten worldwide with crickets and mealworms would cut farmland use by a third, substantially reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, they predict.

But even a small shift would potentially bring benefits, and could be achieved by using insects as ingredients in some pre-packaged foods.
Professor Dave Robertson talks to bulletin about his strategic priorities as he becomes Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science & Engineering.

What do you hope to bring to the role of Head of the College of Science & Engineering?

One of the largest areas of change for universities is the opportunity, and need, for interdisciplinary, integrative research and education with relevance to big national and global challenges. I enjoy these sorts of strategic efforts – they were a big part of my role as a Dean in the College.

I’ve had a great cross-college education, as the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine has been, in part, a home for me over the past two years, and I’ve worked with colleagues there to set up the Centre for Medical Informatics. I’d hope to encourage others to attempt this sort of interdisciplinary activity. I’m very lucky that Science and Engineering has an ethos of collaborative working, and great experience among senior staff in supporting this, so I’m confident that this will flourish while, at the same time, remaining committed to the basic science and engineering that underpins it all. I’m very much looking forward to developing this strategically.

What will be your main priorities?

I’ve three priorities: growth in interdisciplinary research; improving the quality and diversity of our education; and deepening our engagement with industry. We’ve already shown that we can build long-term, joint activities between Colleges and we need to have more of
Evidence shows that fostering innovation and boosting research can go hand in hand. Academic quality improves with the right innovation culture.

Integrated thinking

Chris Close

Integrated thinking

Life notes

- Professor Robertson holds the University’s Chair of Applied Logic and was Dean of Special Projects in the College from 2014. Before that, he was Head of the University’s School of Informatics.
- He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society and a former Chair of the UK Computing Research Committee.
- Professor Robertson's research is in the broad areas of data science and artificial intelligence, focusing on coordinated, automated reasoning. His main areas of application are in data intensive healthcare.
- He originally graduated in Ecological Science before taking a PhD in Artificial Intelligence at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

How do we continue to attract the best students to Edinburgh?

It’s important also to take a strategic view of teaching, bearing in mind that although many of the core principles of science remain constant, the context in which we educate and the expectations of students and staff can change rapidly. Students are discerning about what they wish to learn, and have more ways of sourcing information. Also, employers are looking for skills that don’t always fit into traditional disciplinary study. We’re recognising this in our residential education, and I’d also like to see us further diversify into more extensive online learning activities, with the aim of reaching cohorts of students who otherwise might not have access to the Edinburgh experience.

What is the outlook for researchers whose work doesn’t lend itself to cross-collaboration?

Although large, complex problems invite interdisciplinary collaboration, many of our key innovations will come from individual minds. Often discoveries are made by a lone engineer or scientist, and that’s very important. Basic research generates ideas on which we build everything else. If we create the right blend, and in the process grow our research overall, it gives a more diverse context for people doing basic research, and perhaps gives them a few ideas to keep their research fresh.

How do we manage that? This comes from grassroots – engaging with other audiences has become part and parcel of what it means to be a scientist now.

How can the College build on its successes in driving equality?

We have achieved a great deal in terms of gender equality, with Athena Swan accolades across the College, of which we should be proud, and it is important to maintain this momentum – it is a continual process. We also need to look at inclusion beyond gender equality – there are many other forms of equality and we should continue to learn.

How should we celebrate the upcoming centenary of King’s Buildings?

We should, of course, celebrate the many achievements that have been made. But mostly we should look to the future and engage others in the ambitions that we have for the century to come.

This. We should also think of ways to raise the quality of teaching. Part of that is creating the right environment with better teaching spaces. Also we need the time to teach thoughtfully and to reach out further to students in a mix of residential and online teaching. I would also like to see more opportunities for long-term, meaningful engagement with industry. Evidence shows that fostering innovation and boosting research can go hand in hand. Academic quality improves with the right innovation culture.

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The University’s relationship with industry is changing and the signs are there to see, writes Edd McCracken.

You can read it as much from the churned earth and the hard hats beside the Informatics Forum as you can from the ‘Sold’ notice on the old Royal Infirmary Building in Quartermile.

The University is opening its doors ever wider and welcoming in the city and industry like never before. ‘Partnership’ is the buzzword. Industry is generously defined. Mutual benefit is the aim.

At last count, the University had more than a thousand projects running in collaboration with industry, touching upon a dozen sectors of the economy, with all three colleges involved, frequently together.

Recent examples include biologists and engineers working with West Brewery to improve the fermentation process of beer. A partnership with engineering firm Costain secured £20 million to reduce the cost of Carbon Capture and Storage.

For Kevin Collins, Assistant Principal Industry Engagement, this diversity shows the University has responded to the Scottish Government’s desire for universities to change how they relate to industry.

“I think we have done that,” he says. “This is a fundamental change in people’s perception in how the University works. And this is just the starting set. Over the next 10 years, expect that to expand and get richer and deeper.”
Data is at the heart of this expansion. If the digital economy is currently underpinned by mobile, social and cloud technology, the next wave will be in the generation, collection, analysis and monetisation of huge volumes of data. No sector – neither private, public nor third – is immune.

Building on the University’s world-leading expertise in this area, experts say there is huge potential to work with the organisations creating the raw data and forge something that helps businesses and society.

Such work is already underway. Of the University’s thousand partnerships, 160 are data-driven.

The potential is huge. Digital transformation technologies and services will be worth $2.7 trillion in 2020, according to the International Data Corporation.

The UK Government’s recent Science and Innovation Audit highlighted Edinburgh’s ambition to become the data capital of Europe. The University being a key part of the city’s innovation ecosystem is central to making it happen.

"It is about providing the right environment for local businesses to grow," says Mr Collins. "If they don’t have the right talent because we’re not teaching the right things, then we are probably not optimising what we can do to help. Is that our role? I certainly think it is."

To that end, the University aims to train 100,000 new data scientists in the next ten years in order to plug a skills gap that the audit identified.

Plans for growth can be found elsewhere. Of the University’s £300 million research income, currently only £25 million comes from industrial partnerships.

George Baxter, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Research and Innovation, the University’s office charged with commercialising world-class research and academic expertise, says the plan is to almost double that figure to £43 million in the next few years.

“Historically, there has been much emphasis on University spin-outs by the government and funders,” says Mr Baxter. “It may be that royalties, licensing or just selling the intellectual property is an even better way to create value for the University. There may be fewer spin-outs, but better quality and with a better return.

“We are agnostic about the route to commercialisation. What we have to do is look at the intellectual property and judge what best suits it.”

Engagement with industry comes in many forms. It ranges from the contractual – consultancy work or commissioning research – to the collaborative – working together on research or hosting companies’ research and development strands.

Previously, the latter has been difficult due to space constraints, but new capital projects will change all that.

In 2016, the University purchased the old Royal Infirmary building in the Quartermile development. Due to open in a few years’ time, it is being developed by the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences as an interdisciplinary space where industry can co-locate and collaborate with the University on site.

Another external-facing project is much closer to completion. The Thomas Bayes Centre, located beside the Informatics Forum and facing onto Potterrow, will open in 2018.

If data is at the heart of the University’s engagement with industry, Bayes will be a vital artery connecting external partners with the University’s skills in data science, data technology and beyond. It will bring together existing centres of expertise, such as The Data Lab and the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre (EPCC), and create room for much more.

There will be space for 600 members of staff, with half of them engaged in innovation and knowledge transfer. Whole floors have been set aside to house external corporations’ research and development teams.

"It is a big new thing for us," says Professor Jon Oberlander, Assistant Principal Digital Technology. "Bayes will help companies find their way to new innovations on a scale not achievable before."

With ambitious targets for growth, and millions of pounds already invested in capital projects such as Bayes, does the University risk chasing partnerships for short-term financial gain at the expense of nobler values?

Professor Oberlander believes not: "Universities are very good places to develop technologies that preserve and cherish values rather than erode them," he says. "I think that is a really important part of the University’s mission. It shows because we don’t just have technologists, but social scientists and anthropologists – for example – being part of that mix."

“We have all these people who can look at a problem in a really rounded way. We often beat ourselves up for not doing enough interdisciplinary research, but we do a really good job. Being able to convene smart people at short notice around a challenging problem – the University is a fantastic place to do this."
Widening participation – what it means to us

The University is wholeheartedly committed to widening access in higher education and, for many of our staff and students, it’s about much more than just numbers.
Laura Cattell
Head of Widening Participation and Deputy Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions

We’re at a turning point right now in the University, with many past successes and current developments to be proud of. We have a sector-leading approach to contextualised admissions, nationally recognised and innovative outreach programmes such as Pathways and Educated Pass, and we are currently the only Scottish university to offer guaranteed bursaries to Scotland-domiciled students on the basis of household income.

But we also want to take our commitment to widening participation (WP) to the next level. We want to do our part to ensure that anyone with the qualifications, potential and determination to succeed has the opportunity to study at the University of Edinburgh, irrespective of background.

Within this we want to consider not only school leavers but also other groups of students who are underrepresented in higher education and face barriers in getting into University: adult returners, part-time students, our local communities, care leavers, disabled students and young adult carers.

To help us to take our next step we have entered into a consultation phase for a University-wide WP strategy. This began in March and will continue until September 2017. We will consult as widely as we can in order to capture a holistic view of potential issues and approaches. If you’d like any further information about this or any of our programmes please do get in touch at wpteam@ed.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dorian Ogunro
Head Coach, University of Edinburgh Amateur Football Club

I left school after sixth year, but was inspired to go back to education when I was 25, and applied to do a Scottish Wider Access Programme course in social science and business studies, which helped me to get an undergraduate place at Edinburgh.

It was a fantastic experience that completely changed my life, although it wasn’t all plain sailing. The balance of studying, keeping a part-time job, playing and training with the University football team, and maintaining a social life was sometimes very difficult.

I graduated with an MA in Politics, and went on to work in technical support in a large retail business while continuing to coach within the University football club for seven years until I became Head Coach in 2013.

We want to make sure that somebody who has desire and ability has opportunity.

Melanie Smith
Senior Widening Participation Officer

I’m so proud to work in widening participation, and I’m proud of the partnerships, because that’s really what it is.

We meet these young people, we meet the adult returners and we meet the staff who want to support them and it’s always a case of good energy and people feeling they want to give something back. We want to make sure that somebody who has desire and ability has opportunity.

And it’s not just about succeeding, it’s about flourishing. It’s about actually moving on and progressing into a profession and into a world and having a voice and a platform that we still feel people don’t have from certain areas of our community, of our society.
In the Careers Service, we support transition events and programmes such as the post-offer visit days, Sutton Trust Summer School, Pathways to Professions, and the Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools teacher conference. Across these we tackle career and job market myths, develop skills and highlight the support students can get when they come here.

We present to policy makers, share good practice and lobby employers to adopt more socially mobile recruitment practices, and bring them on campus to engage our students.

WP doesn’t stop at getting into and staying in higher education.

We want to inspire and empower students to fully develop their potential and achieve satisfying and rewarding futures.
Michaela Kosman
Language undergraduate and curriculum ambassador for the WP Early Years Programme

My role is to give primary school pupils in disadvantaged areas a positive experience with language learning. I give weekly lessons at a local primary school, where not all teachers have enough expertise or resources to be able to teach modern languages.

This allows me not only to pass on my love of languages, but also highlight the possibility of entering higher education to children who might never have considered that option before.

I myself was involved in LEAPS, which encouraged me to apply to university despite the fact that I was living in a low-participation neighbourhood.

So, WP to me is about supporting those who are in a disadvantaged position by showing the options that are available, and highlighting that they are not reserved for anyone based on their background.

Adam Budd
Schools Liaison, Recruitment and WP Officer, School of History, Classics and Archaeology

History for Schools project

With our student volunteers, we have been visiting local schools every week to raise attainment among pupils in History and Modern Studies. Even highly acclaimed schools in Edinburgh contain pockets of deprivation. Mentorship programmes such as this one make a real difference by inspiring pupils, engaging our own students, and extending the University’s reach beyond our own classrooms.

Becky Sokolow
MSc student, International Relations

History for Schools project

I have been astounded by how involved and smart the students are. It’s not a question of their capability at all, it’s just a question of their understanding what it is to be a university student, and just having the confidence to do that, so if we can give them that information, that confidence and vision of what it’s like to be a student, then that’s what we’re there for.

Tessa Rundell
Acting Deputy Head for Recruitment and Admissions, College of Science & Engineering

I strongly believe that education has the power to transform lives. I feel we have a duty to ensure that students from a wide range of backgrounds are able to participate in higher education. Many of our WP students achieve at the typical level or above, and this supports our belief that these are strong students who will do well in higher education. We often think about WP in an undergraduate context, but we also need to consider barriers to WP students entering postgraduate programmes – for example fees and lack of funding.

Robert Lawrie, Director of Student Administrative Services

We now have the most generous access awards in the UK for those from the lowest family incomes, amounting to over £9 million during this current session. That’s a significant commitment which we should be extremely proud of.

But for me widening access is not about statistics but rather is all about creating opportunities, about making a difference to the lives of individual students who each have their own story to share.

Students like Megan (not her real name), who is the first in her family to attend university, and who at the age of 14 was placed into foster care on account of her mother suffering from alcoholism. Through a bursary, Megan has been able to join our university community and enhance it, reaching her full potential in a way that only a few years ago, she did not think was possible.

Stories like those of Megan, just one out of many, are for me what widening participation is all about – about raising aspirations, providing opportunities, and yes, about changing lives.

To find out how you can help, please visit www.edin.ac/widening-participation
Now in their ninth year, the Students’ Association Teaching Awards honour the very best contributions to the student learning experience made by teaching and support staff across the University.

Over 2,400 nominations were received from students for this year’s awards, which took place in Teviot Row House on Thursday 27 April.

Here we celebrate the winners and share some of the many positive and insightful comments made by the students who nominated them.

**Best Personal Tutor**

Dr Rachel Howell  
School of Social & Political Science  
“She really cares about every student who passes through her doors. She uses her own experiences to connect to us and suggest the best ways forward.”

**Best Feedback**

Dr Carlos Soler Montes  
School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures  
“His feedback is beyond compare … he explains concepts thoroughly, diagnosing the individual strengths and weaknesses of each student while also seeking out ‘teachable moments’ that are useful for the entire class.”

**Best Innovative Assessment**

Fiona Duffy  
School of Health in Social Science  
for: Applied Psychology for Children and Young People  
“We all developed new services, resources and trainings that are likely to be useful in the real world. I came out of the assignment with not only a good grade and a strong theoretical understanding, but I had a new mental health resource that I could discuss with future employers.”

**Best Student Who Tutors**

Tim Squirrel  
School of Social & Political Science  
“When you go to his tutorials, you know you have someone who cares about your academic development and who is there to prepare you for the trauma of your very first university essays.”

Caroline Elms and Ross Baillie from the Student Association hosted the evening, with entertainment from the A Cappella Society, Footlights and Modern Dance Society.
Teaching Awards 2016/17

Ian Campbell Award for Best Teaching in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr Adam Budd
School of History, Classics and Archaeology

“Adam’s teaching is legendary and his courses are consistently popular. Students experience rich, well thought-out teaching; as an active researcher and an expert in his field, Adam’s enthusiasm brings his subjects to life. He stands out from the crowd.”

Kendall Award for Best Teaching in Medicine

Dr Kate Byrne
Edinburgh Medical School

“Kate is fully supportive of all her pupils, taking time to get to know each and every one of us. She strikes the perfect balance between offering knowledge and help and encouraging us to puzzle things out for ourselves.”

Best Teaching in Veterinary Science

Jenna Richardson
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

“It is a challenging thing to make a 150+ seated lecture theatre of mixed age, tired, unenthusiastic students feel re-enthused immediately after Christmas, but Jenna has done it from day one of our return.”

Best Support Staff

Karen Howie
School of History, Classics & Archaeology

“Karen is the lynchpin of the School, without her and her IT team, I am convinced the School would fall apart. She is a gold standard employee and the University must never let her go.”

Van Heyningen Award for Best Teaching in Science and Engineering

Corrine Baulcomb
School of Geosciences

“Corinne has blown me away by not only the sheer extent of expert knowledge that she has been able to convey precisely and clearly but also the enthusiasm and excitement that she also has for the subject. The teaching has been fluid, fresh and challenging.”

Best Course

Dr Chris Breward and Dr Nikki Moran
Edinburgh College of Art

for: Music, Style, Identity and Image in the Modern Age

“This is the first time we have had the opportunity to do a course that is truly cross-disciplinary. It is the only course I have taken which includes a wide range of students from all over the art school, including visiting students. The discussion in seminars is always lively and there has also been a refreshing amount of content about gender and race relations.”

Best Research of Dissertation Supervisor

Sarah Dunnigan
School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures

“Sarah’s contribution to academic life has been her unwavering compassion and kindness as a supervisor. She is an inspirational educator who has supported countless students through their postgraduate studies.”

For more information about the Teaching Awards, visit www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/teachingawards
The University’s International Office has changed its name to Edinburgh Global. *bulletin* finds out what this means for the University’s worldwide focus.

Since the launch of Edinburgh’s first international strategy in 2009, the University’s global reach has gone from strength to strength.

The University is now home to students from 156 different countries, employs staff of 105 different nationalities and boasts collaborative research and teaching partnerships across the globe.

The International Office has been both a key driver and support mechanism for many of the University’s students and staff as they come to Edinburgh for the first time or embark on exciting and innovative research projects around the world.

The increasing importance of these communities and partnerships to us means that the University has refocused its international outlook with the launch of a new global engagement plan and the rebranding of the International Office to Edinburgh Global.

“Global better represents the University,” says Vice-Principal International, Professor James Smith. “Edinburgh Global captures our partnerships and exchange opportunities around the world, our international community, our cultural richness on campus and everything in between.”

The new plan has three key themes: community, exchange and partnerships. Professor Smith aims to improve support for the worldwide University community, build global networks and advance partnerships and engagement within key regions.

He says, “Community is all about building, supporting and celebrating our global staff and students; exchange ensures that our community have an opportunity to work in other places; and partnerships focuses on building collaborations that extend our reach, research and teaching.”

“We also want to provide more scholarships and financial assistance, allow more students to spend time overseas and make it as easy for everyone to access the opportunities that excite and inspire them.”

The expansion of the University’s global focus sees the offices in Beijing, Mumbai, New York and Santiago joined by a Southeast Asia office in Singapore.

Regional Directors have also been appointed for Africa, Europe and the Middle East. They will work with staff based overseas and help focus the University’s engagement with these key regions.

Firas Ibrahim has taken on the role of Regional Director, Middle East. Originally from Syria, he completed his MSc and PhD in Scotland. He hopes to use his cultural understanding of the region to further partnerships and alumni networks.

“I feel very proud to be part of such a truly global university,” says Firas. “There is massive potential in the Middle East for research collaboration and student exchange partnerships. I am working on advancing and creating impactful global partnerships with key countries in the region. I am also looking forward to working with colleagues to support our alumni network and strengthen our global community.”

Based in Edinburgh, Helen MacMillan will build upon the University’s long history of partnerships with European institutions in her role as Regional Director Europe.

“I’ve studied, lived and worked in various European Union countries,” says Helen. “I have friends, colleagues and even a Spanish niece all of whom remind me of the daily impact Europe has on our lives and how we are all the better for its contribution.”

“To be able to work for a University which is so European in its outlook and to give positive messages of reassurance and support to our European neighbours in such historic and uncertain times is an exciting opportunity.”

Derek Macleod is ideally suited to the new role of Regional Director, Africa.
Having been with the University since 2008, he has been involved in numerous research and partnership programmes across the region.

“We have really transformed the way in which the University interacts with Africa,” says Derek. “We’re now able to truly recruit the brightest and best students from across the continent and support students from a wider range of countries than ever before. We are also aiming to develop new and innovative partnerships across Africa that support recruitment and work placements and provide excellent contacts for our graduates when they return.”

Eighty per cent of all the world’s nations are now represented in Edinburgh’s student body. Professor Smith believes that the University has a duty to engage with both established and fast-emerging nations across the globe and that Edinburgh Global is now best suited to serve the University and help deliver impact for communities worldwide.

“I think that we are beginning to engage more meaningfully in more regions of the world. Our increased presence in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa will ensure we are well placed to respond to opportunities in the future.”

“We are developing a number of really big partnerships. In China, the Zhejiang University-University of Edinburgh Institute has welcomed its first cohort of biomedical science students, and in Edinburgh we have had our first group of MasterCard Foundation scholars from Africa. There are so many more exciting research, teaching and scholarships partnerships in progress. Watch this space!”

To see Edinburgh Global’s new engagement plan and find out more about its vision and ambitions, visit www.global.ed.ac.uk

‘Global’ captures our partnerships and exchange opportunities around the world, our international community, our cultural richness on campus and everything in between.

Professor James Smith
Blooming marvellous
The Edinburgh Festivals at 70

The University has had a long and colourful association with the Edinburgh International Festival and the Festival Fringe since they began in 1947, from the infamous ‘happening’ of 1963 to The Harmonium Project in 2015. bulletin takes a look through the archives.
Edinburgh International Festival offers for staff
You can register for news and offers by emailing corporatefriends@elf.co.uk from your University account, with subject ‘University of Edinburgh Staff’.

Fireworks competition
For the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert, see page 27.

Fringe event at the Playfair Library
Friday 18 August, 2–3pm
A free but ticketed event, Edinburgh’s Festivals and the University of Edinburgh: 70 Years of Collaboration, will feature a panel of speakers telling the story of our many links with the festivals. See www.edfringe.com for booking.

1 The University is once again a key collaborator in the Edinburgh International Festival’s opening light show event, this year entitled ‘Bloom’.
2 Our James Tait Black Prizes for Fiction and Biography are awarded annually at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.
3 The Harmonium Project, 2015 – a spectacular video projection on the Usher Hall, blending animation and data images captured by the University’s Centre for Design Informatics from the Edinburgh Festival Chorus singing John Adam’s Harmonium.
4 Famous faces at the International Drama Conference 1963 held in McEwan Hall, including Ned Sherrin, Lionel Bart, David Frost, John Mortimer, Joan Greenwood and Joan Littlewood.
5 Naked but within the law – art model Anna Kesselaar whipping off her plastic mac as part of ‘the happening’ at the same event.
6 Black Watch – Gregory Burke’s hit play from the 2006 Fringe, conceived and performed in the University’s Forrest Hill building.
A selection of achievements, accolades and appointments.

Tam Dalyell Prize

Jon Oberlander, Professor of Epistemics in the School of Informatics, has won the University’s 2016 Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science.

Professor Oberlander’s research focuses on enabling machines to communicate with individual people, which involves not only studying how people express themselves face-to-face and online, but also building machines that can adapt themselves to people. He collaborates with linguists, psychologists, computer scientists and social scientists, and has a long-standing interest in the uses of technology in the cultural heritage and creative industries.

As well as receiving a medal and a small financial reward, Professor Oberlander was invited to deliver the Tam Dalyell Prize Lecture at the Edinburgh International Science Festival in April, where he spoke about the challenges of recent developments in artificial intelligence.

Next Head of The Roslin Institute

Professor Eleanor Riley has been appointed to head The Roslin Institute and will take up the post in September in succession to Professor David Hume.

Professor Riley is currently Professor of Infectious Disease Immunology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

With a background in veterinary medicine, human infectious diseases and global health, she has more than 30 years’ experience of research in the UK and Africa.

Simon Kelley to join GeoSciences

Professor Simon Kelley will be the new Head of the School of GeoSciences. Professor Kelley is currently the interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at the Open University.

He has an international research portfolio in Earth sciences, measuring the rates and timescales of geological processes, and also has extensive experience in the development and delivery of online science courses.

Professor Kelley will join the University in July 2017, and take up the Head of School post from 1 August when Professor Sandy Tudhope completes his term as Head of School.

In brief

Energy research appointment
Professor Stuart Haszeldine of the School of GeoSciences has been appointed onto the Science Advisory Committee of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The committee is the influential group for energy-related work across all research councils in the UK, and is responsible for allocating £570 million of funded work. Of this, £250 million over five years has been directed into the SuperGen Programme of research into low-carbon energy and sustainable distribution. A similar level of SuperGen4 activity in low carbon energy is expected to 2022.

Dubai graduation speech
Professor Mona Siddiqui OBE gave the graduation speech at the British University in Dubai in November, and a public lecture on religion, migration and hospitality. The British University in Dubai has made Professor Siddiqui a visiting professor to help develop a humanities programme there. This collaboration will be a unique partnership between a United Arab Emirates university and the University of Edinburgh. Professor Siddiqui is currently chairing a Home Office independent review of Sharia councils in the UK.

Young Academy of Europe
Dr Manuel Fernández-Gótz, Lecturer in Archaeology in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, has been elected to the Young Academy of Europe. He is the first archaeologist and only the second person from the University to be elected. In October 2016, Dr Fernández-Gótz was awarded a £100,000 Leverhulme award which was instrumental in his exceptional election to the academy.

Farewell after 46 years of service
April marked the end of an exceptional 46 years of service for Liz Anderson of Printing Services, who first started with the University in 1971. Liz’s colleagues wish her a long and happy retirement and thank her for her dedication, helpfulness and friendliness throughout her long career.
Dr Beth Christie, Lecturer in Outdoor and Environmental Education at Moray House School of Education, has been selected for an international all-female expedition to Antarctica that aims to heighten the awareness of women in leadership and science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. The expedition also ties into a wider national programme of polar sustainability education in schools that she is currently developing in partnership with Dr Sian Henley, School of Geosciences.

Dr Christie, who is the programme director for the MSc Learning for Sustainability, is one of only two women from Scotland selected.

www.gofundme.com/bethchristie

Eminent scientists join Royal Society

Four members of staff have been elected to the Royal Society in recognition of their outstanding contributions to science.

Prizewinners from the University in 2017 include:

**Dr Sinead Rhodes**, Deputy Director of Salvesen Mindroom Centre at the University, won the Innovator’s Public Engagement Prize for her work with the RSE Young Academy of Scotland.

**Professor Polly Arnold FRSE**, School of Chemistry, won the Lord Kelvin Medal for her research in lanthanide and actinide in synthetic chemistry.

**Dr Stephen Brusatte**, School of Geosciences, won the Makdougall Brisbane Medal for his research in palaeontology and particularly his work on preserving Scotland’s fossil heritage.

**Dr Mirko Canevaro**, School of History, Classics & Archaeology won the Thomas Reid Medal for his research on ancient Greek politics and law.

Academics from the University elected to the RSE Fellowship:

- **Professor Tim Altman**, Professor of Molecular Pathology and Genetics and Director of Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine
- **Professor Christina Boswell**, Professor of Politics
- **Professor Harald Haas**, Professor of Mobile Communications
- **Professor Neil McKeown**, Crawford Tercentenary Professor of Chemistry
- **Professor Jane Norman**, Professor of Maternal and Fetal Health
- **Professor Alexander Tudhope**, Head of School of GeoSciences and Professor of Climate Studies
- **Professor Greg Walker**, Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature.

Women in leadership expedition

Dr Beth Christie, Lecturer in Outdoor and Environmental Education at Moray House School of Education, has been selected for an international all-female expedition to Antarctica that aims to heighten the awareness of women in leadership and science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. The expedition also ties into a wider national programme of polar sustainability education in schools that she is currently developing in partnership with Dr Sian Henley, School of Geosciences.

Dr Christie, who is the programme director for the MSc Learning for Sustainability, is one of only two women from Scotland selected.

www.gofundme.com/bethchristie

Everest base camp for charity

George Higgins in Estates took part in an expedition to trek to the base camp of Mount Everest in April, raising money for Who Dares Cares, a charity set up to help ex-soldiers suffering from mental health issues and post-traumatic stress disorder.

www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/who-dares-cares-scio

The Fellowship is made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from, or living and working in, the UK and the Commonwealth.
Kerrie Gallagher is one of the University’s newest modern apprentices. Here she tells *bulletin* about her role as a clerical administrator.

**Please explain your job in a nutshell.**
I focus on prioritising and processing supplier invoices for payment, which can range from office stationery to lab supplies to hotel bills – any product or service our staff and students may need.

**What are your main goals?**
My overall aim is to have a successful job that I’m proud of and happy doing.

**What projects are you working on at the moment?**
As well as my work, I’m studying for the AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) Level 2 qualification, which has five exams. It’s mainly self-study from books but I also have an AAT personal tutor on the phone and by email, and face-to-face when I need a bit more support.

**Who do you deal with week to week?**
Mainly my colleagues. It’s quite a large team and we often need to ask each other about queries or problems that come up, to get reassurance that we’re dealing with things in the right way. I also deal with a lot of email enquiries from staff across the University.

**Please describe a typical day.**
I’m usually in by 8.30am and leave around 4.30 to 5pm. Mainly I’m at my desk dealing with invoices but I share the opening and sorting of the mail. We get a lot of mail – hundreds of invoices a day!

**What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?**
Starting with something in the morning and having it done by the end of the day – not having it hanging over till the next day. And finishing on time, although there is the odd day where you think you’re getting away on time and then everything seems to go wrong at once. A huge part of my job is time management.

Modern apprenticeships can offer an alternative hiring opportunity for departments, support succession planning and further our community engagement commitment.

To find out more, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/hr/youth-talent](http://www.ed.ac.uk/hr/youth-talent)
Be more active

Get moving more with Sport & Exercise’s Healthy University Project

If you’d like to be more physically active, the University offers a range of free help and advice to suit all levels of fitness, much of it based around making small changes to your daily routine.

The Healthy University Project offers staff many ways to lead healthier lives, ranging from simple advice for the whole office to individual Support for Physical Activity (SPA) consultations to lunchtime workouts. The SPA programme is a free, confidential one-to-one service to help less active staff set and manage their health goals.

We also have one of the best and most affordable gyms in the country, with world-class facilities, more than 90 classes a week, and University staff and Student Association staff memberships from as little as £4 a week, with no joining fee.

Summer is the perfect time to start being more active, more often. Find out how by visiting www.ed.ac.uk/healthy-university or emailing us at healthy.university@ed.ac.uk

To book a one-to-one SPA session, please email spa.programme@ed.ac.uk
Lunch mates

Here’s what happened when Frank Eardley, Supplier Enablement Manager, and Kathryn Redpath, Teaching Fellow, had lunch together at the Grassmarket Project

Kathryn
What were your expectations before meeting your lunch mate?
Not knowing about procurement at Edinburgh, I was looking forward to finding out about what Frank does. We struggled to fit everything in before I had to run off to teach.

What did you talk about?
Our respective roles, especially motivation, expectation and aspirations, as well as our own education, backgrounds, family life and wider experiences.

Can you tell us about your lunch mate’s role?
Frank’s role is to help colleagues buy things using the e-procurement systems, as well as involvement in special projects, such as procuring pension services and even the Valkyrie robot – for which Frank had to speak to NASA.

Are there any similarities between your roles?
We can both help colleagues get what they need. Frank can help make procurement as smooth as possible from the earliest stages, and I can help lecturers and tutors, through the support we provide for their international students.

Can you think about how you might work together in the future?
I’m not sure, but given how well we got along, I’m sure we can think of something!

What is the best thing about you lunch mate’s role?
Frank really enjoys helping colleagues to get what they need in the most efficient and seamless way possible. He also very much enjoys the variety of working with all different parts of the University.

How does your lunch mate commute to work?
By bus.

What is your lunch mate’s favourite lunch place?
Montpeliers in Bruntsfield.

Frank’s hobbies?
Frank’s main interests are politics (ideology not politicians), reading (particularly Will Self and PG Wodehouse), exploring Edinburgh with Daisy, his Australian labradoodle, and supporting Celtic.

Frank
What were your expectations before meeting your lunch mate?
I was a bit apprehensive we might not have much in common to talk about, but we happily shared our views and experiences, and actually ran out of time.

What did you talk about?
Work and our families. Kathryn explained her father was involved in procurement and her mother, like me, is an Open University graduate.

Can you tell us about your lunch mate’s role?
Kathryn teaches English for Academic Purposes to students from overseas. She is also involved in academic management, including quality assurance, and she is undertaking a doctorate in education with the Open University.

Are there any similarities between your roles?
We both recognise the need to be able to build and develop effective relationships with colleagues to achieve our goals. Being able to interpret our colleagues’ requirements is crucial, so we are both keen listeners and learners.

Can you think about how you might work together in the future?
I’m not sure, but given how well we got along, I’m sure we can think of something!

What is the best thing about you lunch mate’s role?
Frank really enjoys helping colleagues to get what they need in the most efficient and seamless way possible. He also very much enjoys the variety of working with all different parts of the University.

How does your lunch mate commute to work?
By bus.

What is your lunch mate’s favourite lunch place?
Yocoko Noodle Bar on South Bridge.

Kathryn’s hobbies?
Kathryn is currently studying Spanish. She taught English in Spain and in South Korea. She runs, enjoys horse riding, plays piano and, as an English literature graduate, is a keen reader.

If you’d like to take part in Lunch mates, please email your details to bulletin@ed.ac.uk

To find out more about Frank and Kathryn’s service areas, visit www.ed.ac.uk/procurement and www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching
competition

Can you spot the difference?

Circle the five differences in the two images and send your entry to us by Monday 24 July to be included in our prize draw for two tickets in the Ross Theatre in Princes Street Gardens at the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert on Monday 28 August at 9pm.

We also have two runners-up prizes of two pairs of tickets to Meow Meow’s Little Mermaid cabaret at the Hub on Sunday 6 August at 10.30pm.

Meow Meow’s Little Mermaid
3 – 27 August 2017
The Hub
eif.co.uk

Forget the Little Mermaid you thought you knew. This subversive cabaret is a fairy tale gone rogue. Contains strobe lighting and haze effects.
exhibition

**Drawn to Edinburgh**

31 July to 24 August 2017

The Scottish Storytelling Centre

Admission free

An exhibition of illustrated works by students and graduates of Edinburgh College of Art. Its theme is a sense of place and what makes Edinburgh unique. The first strand comprises a variety of styles and approaches to illustrating iconic buildings, reflecting the inspiration the city brings to young learners finding their place in their new home. The second highlights the University of Edinburgh’s unique collections, with drawings ranging from beautiful shells from the Galapagos Islands brought back by former Edinburgh student Charles Darwin, to the original Penicillin mould discovered by former Rector Alexander Fleming.

[www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk)