



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

bulletin*

WINTER 2016 | 17

STAFF MAGAZINE



Inspiring students

The University's dedicated teachers in action

At your service

Accommodation, Catering and Events

Promoting Excellence

An update on the Service Excellence Programme

An appetite for success

Introducing the University's new Global Academy

Competition & giveaway

Spot the difference to win a prize

Contact us

bulletin

Communications and Marketing
The University of Edinburgh
5 Forrest Hill
Edinburgh EH1 2QL, UK

E: bulletin@ed.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)131 650 9747

Published by

Communications and Marketing,
The University of Edinburgh

Submit an idea

If you would like to submit an idea for an article, please contact us at the email address above. The next edition will be published in autumn 2017.

Stay updated

For regular updates, visit Staff News:
www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff



Follow us on Twitter:
[@EdinUniStaff](https://twitter.com/EdinUniStaff)

If you require this document in an alternative format (for example, large print, on coloured paper, etc) please get in touch by using the contact details above.

Printed by J Thomson Colour Printers

The University of Edinburgh is mindful of the environmental impact of producing this magazine and seeks to minimise resources used wherever possible. This magazine has been printed on recycled, uncoated stock that contains 100 per cent post-consumer waste and is manufactured at a mill that is certified to the environmental management system ISO14001.

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

welcome

In this issue *bulletin* takes a look inside the lectures, seminars and tutorials taking place around the University to find out what good teaching means to our dedicated academic staff (pages 8–11).

The latest developments in the Service Excellence Programme are revealed in our interview with Programme Sponsor Sarah Smith and Programme Leader Barry Neilson on pages 12–13.

On pages 14–15 we go behind the scenes to meet some of the team in Accommodation, Catering and Events and on pages 18–19 we discover how Innovation Initiative Grants are helping support the creativity and invention of the University's students and staff.

In *Lunch mates* on page 20 we introduce two members of staff so they can learn a little more about each other's roles, and in *My nine-to-five* on page 26 Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement, shares his day.

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



In November strange apparitions could be found in George Square Gardens as part of the outdoor sculptural experience *The Influence Machine* by American artist Tony Oursler. Audiences witnessed ghostly characters projected onto trees and mist as they wandered through the atmospheric event.

Oursler, a graduate of California Institute of the Arts and pioneer of video art in early 1980s New York, specialises in radical experimentation using projection, animation, montage and live action.

Keep up to date with the latest Edinburgh College of Art events at www.ed.ac.uk/eca

The University and Europe

The University is taking a proactive approach to addressing issues arising from the EU Referendum and remains committed to its long-established international outlook.

On 23 June 2016 the UK electorate voted in a national referendum to leave the European Union. The initial response from universities around the UK has been concern around a range of issues affecting staff, student recruitment, student exchange and research funding. But wider than that, the message that the UK appears unwelcoming to non-UK nationals flies in the face of the University's ongoing commitment to diversity and a community in which staff and students feel valued and welcome.

Following this period of uncertainty, the University has taken a positive and proactive approach to ensure that the best outcome is achieved for our staff and students. The University has been working closely with key sector bodies such as the Russell Group, Universities

UK and Universities Scotland who are leading discussions on a number of areas with the UK and Scottish governments. Meanwhile, a special sub-group of Court, the University's governing body, is taking oversight of the University's strategic response which includes establishing our own meetings with politicians and partner organisations.

We have already had reassurances from the UK and Scottish governments on several significant areas, including residency status for current EU staff and their families, European Commission funding for collaborative research projects, and confirmation of tuition fees for students joining in 2017.

As we move towards the triggering of Article 50, which will formally notify Britain's intention to withdraw from the EU, the University will continue to work closely with our sector bodies, to lobby politicians, and to accelerate plans to build partnerships and collaborations with the European Union and with our European partner universities.

Our valued staff community – whether in academic, professional or support services – make the University what it is today. As the University continues to secure positive outcomes, we will update staff regularly through information sessions around our campuses, along with legal advice and FAQs available on The University and Europe website.

 To keep up to date with the latest developments, visit www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu



Connecting with the community

The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, has signed the Social Impact Pledge, a nationwide initiative that encourages public bodies to deliver projects that benefit the public.

Projects to be delivered as part of the pledge include: students working with families of primary school children across Edinburgh to encourage them to include reading, writing and counting in their everyday lives; increasing the number of student start-ups that offer goods and services for local community benefit and ensuring their long term sustainability; more student digital ambassadors to support digital literacy and participation amongst older people in the community.

www.communityscot.org.uk/social-impact-pledge

Library increases study spaces

Students have praised the University's move to add 358 study spaces to the Main Library.

Rooms on the lower ground floor have been transformed to create more places for students to study.

In addition, study desks throughout the library are being upgraded to include desktop data and power points. These will offer students access to USB or plug charging for devices and replace the previous floor-based plug points.



Students offer views on good teaching



Edinburgh University Students' Association has undertaken extensive research analysing nearly 3,000 Teaching Awards nomination comments received from students.

They analysed qualitative data from the 2014-15 Teaching Awards, which provided EUSA with a wealth of information about student perceptions of teaching excellence throughout their educational experience.

The report covers four key themes of student perceptions of teaching excellence: Concerted, visible effort; Charisma, personality and engaging teaching; Breaking down student-teacher barriers and fostering student

engagement; and Consistency, predictability and stability of support.

It also provides practical examples of best practices in teaching and offers recommendations to improve teaching quality.

The report was launched in December to staff and students and can be viewed online or downloaded as a PDF.

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/campaigns/teachingawards/research

- Nominations for the 2016-17 Teaching Awards close on 23 March and winners will be announced at the Teaching Awards ceremony on 27 April 2017.

Strategic Plan 2016

The University's Strategic Plan 2016 is available to order. The plan follows on from the achievements made in the University's 2012-16 Strategic Plan, and focuses on our strategic objectives of leadership in learning and leadership in research, and identifies four developmental themes – influencing globally, contributing locally, partnerships with industry, and digital transformation and data.

Order a copy or download a PDF at www.ed.ac.uk/strategic-plan



Funding boost for zero carbon bid



A £2.75 million initiative is to help deliver staff and students' ideas to make the University carbon neutral.

The Sustainable Campus Fund will help bring to reality suggestions involving energy efficiency, renewable energy and other sustainability projects.

The Fund is the first scheme from the University's new Climate Strategy, which aims for the institution to halve its relative carbon footprint by 2025 and be zero carbon by 2040.

To meet the Climate Strategy's obligations, the University will take

action across all its operations, including research, learning and teaching, operations, and responsible investment. The University will also expand its fleet of electric and hybrid vehicles.

In a pilot of the Sustainable Campus Fund, eight projects are already in action that will save around 600 tonnes of carbon per year. These include upgraded clinical research equipment, improved ventilation at the School of Chemistry, and a campus-wide project to make lifts smarter.

Find out more at www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability/themes/climate-change/climate-strategy

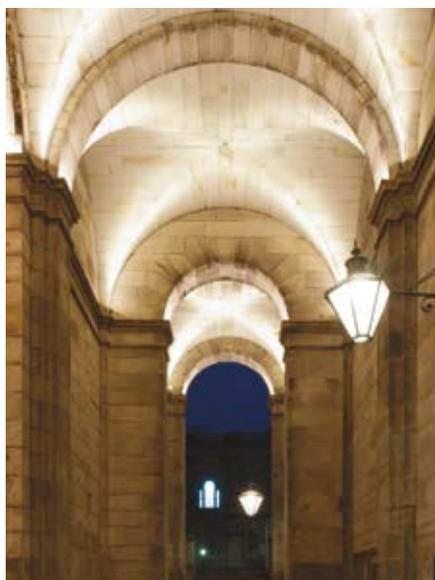
New lighting for Old College

New exterior lighting has been installed at Old College to highlight the architectural character of this treasured landmark and improve visibility.

The design was developed to take into account the important features and context of the building. The new lighting includes the latest energy efficient LED and computer controlled technology.

Some of the original lanterns have been sensitively restored and complemented with the addition of specially manufactured lanterns. When parts of the archway are illuminated, the light creates the appearance of a Scottish saltire.

For all the latest Estates project updates, visit www.ed.ac.uk/estates



in brief

Online payslips

The University has moved to an online system for payslips, which are available to view through employee self-service. Staff can view payslips two working days before pay day from work computers as well as from laptops, tablets or smartphones.

For more information, a user guide and FAQs, visit www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/business-systems/self-service/payslip

Counselling centre launched

A new facility is making it easier for staff and students at Edinburgh to access counselling services.

Moray House Lodge on Holyrood Road comprises a reception area, waiting room and four counselling rooms, with the capacity to hold small group activities.

The University has more than doubled its investment in counselling services since 2010.

11,500 followers on Instagram

The University's new Instagram account has attracted more than 11,500 followers since its first posting in May 2016. Since then, instagrammers have posted a wide range of photos taken around the University, from art installations in George Square Gardens to autumn scenes at the King's Buildings.

www.instagram.com/edinburghuniversity

NHS Shuttle Service closure

The NHS Shuttle Service which runs between Little France and the Western General Hospital has now permanently ceased operations.

Following a review after the NHS decided to withdraw their funding, it was concluded that alternative public bus services are in place that provide more frequent and often faster connections between the city centre and other University sites than the NHS Shuttle was able to.

A full list of the alternatives can be found at www.ed.ac.uk/transport

Stay updated

For regular updates, visit Staff News at www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff or follow us on Twitter at [@EdinUniStaff](https://twitter.com/EdinUniStaff)

research in focus

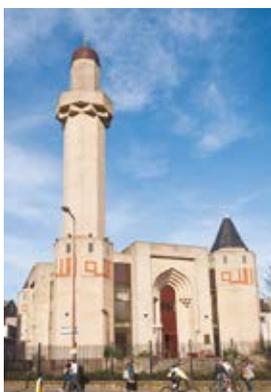
Here are some of the latest academic studies being carried out by staff from a range of disciplines across the University.

New study sheds light on Scots Muslims

Edinburgh researchers have found that Muslims in Scotland are more likely to be in higher education or self-employed than the population as a whole.

The number of Muslims educated to degree level, or above, has increased from 22 per cent in 2001 to 38 per cent in 2011.

This rise exceeds that of the general population at 27 per cent, researchers say.



The findings also indicate that Scottish Muslims are strongly entrepreneurial, as one third of those working full time are self-employed, compared with 12 per cent of the overall population.

Researchers analysed data from the 2001 Census – when a question of religion was introduced – and the subsequent Census of 2011, giving a unique statistical insight into the Scottish Muslim experience.

“Our report’s findings will form the basis of a wider project that aims to encourage conversations at a national and local level, concerning the present and future needs of Scotland’s growing Muslim population,” said Dr Khadijah Elshayyal of the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World.



£1.1m boost for spinal cord research using zebrafish

A team of European brain scientists, coordinated by the University, has received £1.1 million to investigate how zebrafish are able to repair and replace damaged nerve cells. They hope their findings will reveal new therapies that could be tested in patients with neurodegenerative conditions, such as motor neuron disease and multiple sclerosis.

The spinal cord carries vital connections between the brain and muscles called motor neurons, which are crucial for controlling movement of the body. Damage to these fragile nerve cells – either by injury or disease – is permanent and results in irreversible paralysis.

Zebrafish have the remarkable ability to repair injured connections and replace damaged motor neurons, enabling them to regain full movement within four weeks after injury.

Professor Catherina Becker, Director, Centre for Neuroregeneration, said: “This exciting project brings together leading experts from across Europe to explore the intrinsic capacity of the spinal cord to repair itself. We hope this will eventually lead to urgently needed therapies for people who have damage to their spinal cord, either from disease or injury.”

Academic awarded for groundbreaking climate research

The Hans Sigrist Foundation at the University of Bern in Switzerland has awarded the prestigious 2016 Hans Sigrist Prize to the University’s Professor Gabriele Hegerl for her groundbreaking scientific work in this year’s prize field, ‘The Human Fingerprint on the Earth System’.

Professor Hegerl has brought about continuing innovative scientific contributions that enabled the detection

and attribution of anthropogenic climate change, and her work has helped to clarify the causes of global climate change, enabling significant progress in international climate policy.

She has also demonstrated dedicated leadership on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, where she has assumed societal responsibility, and has shown inspiring enthusiasm in working with young scientists.



©Stock.com; Manu/Friedrich; Norrie Russell

What I'm discovering



Dr Lonneke Vervelde is based at The Roslin Institute. Her research focuses on working towards a more sustainable poultry industry.

I try to unravel the chicken's immune system with the ultimate goal to enhance immune-mediated resistance to pathogens and improve vaccine-induced protection.

I am an avian immunologist and my group investigates basic immunological questions as well as more applied questions related to poultry health. The basic research is focused on defining the phenotype, function and development of antigen presenting cells, innate mechanisms that drive adaptive

responses and how pathogens modulate these early host responses.

The more applied research is focused on the immune responses to pathogens and vaccines in poultry, with the ultimate goal being to enhance immune-mediated resistance and thus improve the welfare of the animals. The overall aim is to determine how the early innate responses modulate the adaptive responses and assess their role in the induction of protective immunity, particularly at mucosal surfaces. The research focuses on economically important pathogens such as avian influenza virus, infectious bronchitis virus, avian pathogenic *E. coli* and *Eimeria*.

Blood test hope for bowel diseases

Scientists have identified chemical changes in blood samples of DNA of patients with inflammatory bowel diseases, which could improve screening for the conditions and pave the way for simple tests to aid diagnosis.

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) are long-term conditions caused by inflammation of the gut. Several genes are linked to IBDs but not everyone who inherits these genes will become ill.

The international team – coordinated by the University of Edinburgh – analysed DNA samples from 240 people newly diagnosed with IBD. They found that chemical signatures in patients' DNA – known as epigenetic changes – were different from those in healthy people.

Researchers say their findings also shed light on how the diseases develop and could reveal new approaches to treatments.

making headlines

A selection of research milestones that have been reported in the media recently:

Sharing our science expertise

Experts from the University are to take part in a £7m healthcare and science initiative in China's third largest city, Shenzhen. Staff will support medical education and research at Shenzhen University's new medical school and teaching hospital campus – due to open in 2017. The partnership with China-based Hua Xia Healthcare Holdings will establish the University of Edinburgh – Hua Xia Healthcare Institute for Medical Research, Education and Management at Edinburgh BioQuarter, Little France. The story was reported in *Metro*, *Daily Record*, *The Press and Journal* and *Edinburgh Evening News*.

Leprosy in red squirrels

Leprosy in Britain's red squirrels shares close similarities with that responsible for outbreaks of the disease in medieval Europe, a DNA study has found. Scientists tested 25 samples from red squirrels on Brownsea Island, off England's south coast, and found that all were infected with the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*, which is similar to a strain discovered in the skeleton of a leprosy victim buried in Winchester 730 years ago. Researchers stress that the chances of people catching the disease are low. Reported in the national and international media, including *The Times*, the *Guardian*, *The Australian*, *People's Daily* (China) and *Medportal.ru* (Russia).

Better mental health for Scouts and Guides

Children who participate in Scouts or Guides – which aim to develop qualities such as self-reliance and resolve – are likely to have better mental health at age 50, according to a study carried out by researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. The findings were drawn from a lifelong study of almost 10,000 people from across the UK who were born in November 1958. Around one-quarter of study participants had been in the Scouts or Guides, and those were found to be around 15 per cent less likely to suffer from anxiety or mood disorders, compared with others. The story appeared in the national and international media, including *The Times*, the *Guardian*, *The Huffington Post* (USA) and *CNN Indonesia*.

Inspiring students

Offering our students the best learning experience is at the heart of the University's ethos. *bulletin* visited some of the lectures, tutorials and seminars taking place across the University to see our teachers in action and find out what they think makes good teaching.



Dr Isla Myers-Smith, Chancellor's Fellow, School of Geosciences.

Winner, Innovative Assessment for Conservation Science (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"Good teaching practice is about learning how to be a better teacher. It's also about learning your subject and being open to the things you know and also what you don't know."

Alex Gapud, PhD student in Social Anthropology, School of Social and Political Science.

Shortlisted, Best Student who Tutors (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"I think good teaching matters because I don't know if we've ever told enough that you can do something meaningful. I think great teaching does that first and foremost, but I think it matters because it's about helping to mould our students into becoming all that they can be, whatever they decide that might be."





Professor Alan Murray, Chair of Neural Electronics, School of Engineering, and Assistant Principal Academic Support.

"First of all I want to get across understanding, obviously, but I also want to get across my passionate interest for the subject itself.

"So I bring in the guitar for fun. It's a good laugh, but it also gets across some important points about amplification, distortion, positive feedback – all of which have particular meanings to the public, but have even more particular meanings to engineers. Yes, there is a gimmick factor, but I think putting something in which causes students to remember that lecture and the material in that lecture is no bad thing."



Dr Meryl Kenny, Lecturer in Gender and Politics, School of Social and Political Science.

Winner, Best Course – for Social & Political Science (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"My goal in my teaching practice is to bring politics alive to students, and to connect the classroom and the outside world. The courses I teach on deal with 'big questions' around power, identity, justice and equality – and I try as much as possible to encourage students to apply theoretical debates to real-world issues.

"I love that moment in a tutorial or a seminar when it flips over into a genuine dialogue and conversation – when students are challenging you, just as much as you are challenging them – and then all of a sudden you look up and realise you've all been talking to each other for an hour and the time's run out!"



Marwa Mouazen, Teaching Fellow in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Winner, Ian Campbell Award for Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"Teaching a language is dealing with life. Life itself is rich in all aspects, and I believe that the teaching of any language should be as rich as life. I look at life situations, culture, history, feelings and try to copy these in my teaching. Students seem to enjoy experiencing different scenarios and learning the structures, vocabulary and expressions that are associated with them.

"For me good teaching means establishing a solid ground in teaching, helping students overcome the difficulties and challenges they face, and making a difference in their learning experience. Seeing students' abilities, development and growth by the end of the year is quite rewarding and motivating to self improve on a regular basis."



Mal Burkinshaw, Fashion Programme Director, Edinburgh College of Art.

Winner, Best Feedback (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"You have to be willing to share your expertise and you should always aim to get the student to think for themselves and have full ownership for their work. It is important that they know what is going well with their work and which areas they need to develop – there should always be something positive to say when teaching."

"Caring about the students is important, caring about both them and their work and not about your own ego is important – remember what it felt like to be a student; on the edge of a precipice! Good teaching means pushing students without demeaning them, patience and constantly thinking of ways to help them develop."

Julie Dickson, Teaching Fellow in Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Winner, Best Overall Teacher for Teaching in Veterinary Sciences (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"My aim is to give the students a solid and confident foundation in anatomy so they can develop strong clinical skills. I am researching whether teaching spatially using 3D printed models of canine joints such as the knee and 3D computer models that the students can move and rotate themselves plus have 24/7 access to, will improve their spatial thinking and anatomy learning."

"I believe thinking spatially is an important aspect of any learning and is especially important in disciplines such as veterinary medicine where surgery is a core day one skill."



Dr Lauren Hall-Lew, Lecturer in Sociolinguistics, Linguistics and English Language, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences.

Winner, Excellence in Teaching in the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"I often ask students to reflect on what aspect of a course, big or small, is interesting enough that they think they might remember it five or ten years in the future, and then I encourage them to use that information to decide on what to write about in their projects and essays."

"The most satisfying thing about teaching is when I hear a student say, 'that's interesting, I never thought about it that way before'. The hardest part is providing something useful to both the most and least advanced students in the room. The best teaching is teaching that manages to do that."

Paul Dodds, Nick Callaghan, Norrie Russell



Dr Ahmad Mejbas Al-Remal, Visiting Researcher & Teaching in Civil and Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering.

Winner, Van Heyningen Award for Teaching in Science and Engineering (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"It is about learning together; about what we know and what we aspire to discover. To believe in the students' ability and instill self belief that can challenge the accepted and reach beyond the boundaries of existing knowledge.

"Teaching keeps my mind alive. I learn as I teach, mostly from the questions students ask and the new ideas and methods of analysis they so often come up with."

Professor of Experimental Anatomy Jamie Davies, Edinburgh Medical School.

Winner, Kendell Award for Teaching in Medicine (Students' Association Teaching Awards).

"To staff who want to improve their own teaching practice, I'd say, the first thing is, if they're thinking that way, they're well on their way already. So I think the most important practical piece of advice is to engage with the Institute of Academic Development (IAD). They run a wonderful series of courses and workshops.

"It illustrates good teaching because it isn't just a didactic process of someone from the IAD standing there saying, do this, do that, and everything will be fine. The most important things come from the conversations between the lecturers who are there to learn. And I think that mirrors what happens with our undergraduate learning and teaching – that it's the whole group working together to take a journey and to learn something."



Support for academic staff

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

🔗 For more information about IAD support for staff and students, visit www.ed.ac.uk/iad

Promotion to personal chair

Every year, the Central Academic Promotions Committee assesses applications for the promotion to Personal Chair, the highest mark of distinction for the advancement of an academic discipline, the University and student education. Teaching is considered a key part of the application criteria.

🔗 To find out how to apply, visit www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-reward/promotions-grading

🔗 For videos, blog posts, events and useful resources, visit www.ed.ac.uk/teaching-matters



Student Administration & Support

The focus is on core administrative and support processes delivered to students – from matriculation to graduation. The programme seeks to improve effectiveness and efficiency, the ‘end user’ experience and all processes that support the student life cycle.

Human Resources Transformation

This review aims to identify opportunities for improvement, including how technology can better support new services. By the end of the programme, a new – or upgraded – system will make it possible for HR to replace its much-loved Oracle database.

Recruitment & Admissions

Its goal is to ensure that recruitment services can help the University to succeed in an increasingly competitive and complex global market for higher education. The programme will support and enable targeted and sustainable growth in student numbers.

Finance Transformation

The programme aims to remove duplication and create efficiencies in Finance tasks, business processes and support activities. It will seek to deliver improved outcomes for users – whether administrative staff, academics or students.

Promoting excellence

As the Service Excellence Programme progresses, Sarah Smith, University Secretary and Programme Sponsor, and Barry Neilson, Programme Leader, give an update on the latest developments.

What does the Service Excellence Programme involve?

Sarah: It's an opportunity to ensure we are able to deliver good quality and cost-effective professional services for students and staff across the University for the future. It's a joint initiative involving colleagues in Colleges, Schools and Support Groups, who will be assisted by one of the UK's leading providers of advisory services, KPMG. The aim is to build understanding and openness and, at the same time, improve information flows. It's also an opportunity to build staff confidence, job satisfaction and professionalism across our support functions.

Why has the University launched this initiative?

Sarah: Our devolved college structure has served us very well since 2002, but we need to be sure that we haven't built up any inefficiencies, gaps or duplication of service as we look to ensure we are fit for the future. We know that quite often colleagues providing professional services in Schools, Colleges and the Support Groups will all be working in similar areas. We want to be sure that, taken together, we are getting the best from the sum of the parts. As a University, we do all sorts of things brilliantly and we want to build on that.

Who is involved and how have they been taking part?

Barry: We have four sub-teams made up of staff seconded from across the University. They've been identifying issues, as well as opportunities, to enhance what we do in four areas of activity: student administration and support; human resources; student recruitment and admissions; and

finance. Hundreds of staff have taken part. There's a board for each of the four sub-programmes, involving about 40 members of staff from across the University. There is also an overarching Service Excellence Board, chaired by the University Secretary, which includes Heads of Schools, Registrars and senior academics.

What are the potential benefits?

Barry: There are huge potential gains and that's why we are investing so significantly in this. Our primary focus is on the 'end user' experience – how staff, students and applicants engage with core professional services. We want to make our professional services as effective and efficient as possible and, where appropriate, standardise our business processes. We are also focused on how to make best use of the data we collect through HR, finance and student administration processes, so it enhances the business of the University.

How is the programme progressing?

Barry: Things are going very well. All four sub-programmes are on track to reach the end of the first phase of work, which is the production of what we call outline business cases for improvement. The effort that our colleagues have put in in these seconded teams has been fantastic. There have been quite tight timescales, but people have really thrown themselves into the process, learning new ways of doing things and giving their all to come up with concrete proposals. We are really grateful for the work that everyone has put in.

What is the timescale involved?

Barry: We should be clearer on the overall timing later this year as all of the sub-

groups are due to complete their outline business cases for improvement by the end of March 2017. An implementation plan covering each of these four areas of work will then be drawn up. All of these need to be approved by the board – but the timescales for each of these could vary. We need to make sure checks and balances are in place as we go through the process.

Does it mean jobs will be at risk?

Sarah: The programme will be looking at efficiencies and removing duplication, as well as capturing cost savings. We are doing this at a time of growth, when the University is in very robust financial health. We are concentrating on whether – and how – some jobs or roles might need to change, and how we might redeploy and reshape services rather than reducing staff numbers. We will need to offer staff – and invest in – good training and development, so that staff get the opportunity to learn new skills where that's appropriate.

How can the programme inform University strategy?

Sarah: When we produced our ten-year vision in 2014, we highlighted a growing gap between the very best universities, which can have the biggest impact, and the rest. To make the biggest impact, we need to be distinct and, where we can't be distinct, we simply need to be better than our competitors. The programme will help us realise that vision because we can only deliver the impact that we want to if we have excellent professional services, flexible enough to respond to changing priorities and expectations. 

 www.ed.ac.uk/service-excellence-programme

At your service

Accommodation, Catering and Events ensures students, staff and visitors to the University enjoy a memorable experience. Here, *bulletin* meets some of the team.

Sandra Kinnear

Health, Safety and Sustainability Advisor, Pollock Halls

From minimising landfill waste to setting up charity collection banks, Sandra is committed to supporting the University in making a significant, sustainable contribution to Scotland and beyond.

"I have worked on a number of exciting and worthwhile projects over the years, notably introducing bee hives to Pollock Halls as well as supporting charities such as British Heart Foundation by donating the equivalent of £96,000 in unused goods and furniture. I love educating colleagues on things we can do to give back and improve our wellbeing."

★ *Our bee hives were awarded The National Office Depot Innovation Award in 2012-13 by Green Impact Universities and Colleges.*



Abdul Majothi

Warden, Mylnes Court

We want our students to feel at home from the moment they arrive; that's why Abdul and his Residence Life colleagues offer guidance and support, and help them to take advantage of the opportunities available.

"Being part of the Residence Life team has given me the opportunity to build a supportive and caring community for our students, all adding to the student experience. The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping students to make a home away from home, as well as supporting them throughout the year, is something that I really enjoy and something that is special at the University."

★ *We accommodated 8,600 students in 2015/16, of which 7,600 were new undergraduates and postgraduates.*

Sarah Coombes

Reception Team Leader, Pollock Halls

Sarah is one of the friendly faces that welcome our students and guests on arrival at Pollock Halls.

"I like to think Reception is the face of the organisation and it is imperative we portray the University's values regarding customer service excellence. I enjoy welcoming people to the University. I feel a sense of pride when I see students and guests arrive to the site and be blown away by the magnitude of our facilities and the service we offer."

★ *In 2015/16 we sold around 200k commercial bed nights, worth approximately £6.5m revenue in our four year-round hotels. In the summer months we market and sell around 3,700 beds to commercial guests. All surpluses from our activities are retained by the University.*





Martin Bonner
Retail Catering Operations Manager

Responsible for an impressive 17 award-winning cafés across the University, Martin and his team ensure customers enjoy high food standards and a range of healthy options.

“The team cater for the large population of the University’s students, staff and visitors. We are responsible for the cafés, a 650-seat restaurant at Pollock Halls, and Delivered Catering to over 100 office locations across the estate. Our range of nutritionally balanced items is important to promote health and wellbeing and in recognition of our commitment to this are the numerous awards we have won; specifically the Food For The Brain accolade for the tenth year.”

✦ *In 2015/16 we served 2,268,272 cups of Fairtrade coffee and cooked 6,590 kilos of rice. Our Delivered Catering service generated incomes of £827k and our cafés around £3.5m.*

Helen Reid

Domestic Supervisor, Ewing House, Pollock Halls

Helen is one of the University’s Domestic Supervisors, who all pride themselves on ensuring our students and visitors stay in well-maintained rooms.

“My team and I are responsible for the cleaning of rooms both for students and commercial guests. I especially enjoy getting to know the new students each year, talking to them about their courses and future ambitions; with quite a number of overseas students, it is important we have a relationship with them and be supportive when they are often so far away from home.”

✦ *In 2015/16 we invested £4.83 million in capital projects and upgrade programmes to our student accommodation.*



Gordon Dow

Sales Executive

Gordon works closely with academics wishing to host conferences in their field and also with associations such as VisitScotland and Marketing Edinburgh to bring events to the city and to the University.

“My role focuses on the commercial part of the University, Edinburgh First, whereby I sell a range of products and services both to internal and external clients. I enjoy my job for the variety as no event is the same; ranging from stately dinners in Playfair Library to a 500-residential conference at the John McIntyre Conference Centre. I love that we can showcase to delegates and visitors, coming from all over the world, the unique nature and heritage of our estate as well as the modern facilities the University can offer.”

✦ *Of the 1,802 events we held in 2015/16, 1,149 were internal bookings, which generated around £2.3m income.*





“When our students become part of the next generation of leaders able to provide long-term solutions, then we can begin to be judged a success.

Professor Geoff Simm

An appetite for success

In June the University launched a new Global Academy, adding to the existing Academies of Health, Development, Environment and Sustainability, and Justice. Here *bulletin* finds out more about its food and farming-related goals.

The new Director of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, and Assistant Principal, is Professor Geoff Simm, who took up his role in October and joins the University from Scotland's Rural College.

For Professor David Argyle, Dean of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, where the new Academy is based, this addition to the successful suite of academies focused on tackling world challenges represents a major investment by the University.

"This is a pivotal moment in our strategic direction and we are delighted that Professor Simm has agreed to lead this important initiative."

For scientist Professor Simm, who believes that teaching and research should have far-reaching impact, this feels like the perfect opportunity.

The aim of the new Academy is to help to transform agriculture, so that a planet buffeted by changing climate and spiralling population can continue to feed itself. It is a complex and vast undertaking that demands not just imagination and ingenuity, but a sense of perspective and a generous measure of pragmatism.

Farming practice and food security – ensuring everyone has year-round access to a safe, nutritious, affordable diet – are inextricably, yet precariously, linked. Helping to maintain a balance between the two is the Academy's ultimate goal, and Professor Simm is ready for the task.

Based in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security will have ease of access to the School's trailblazing research.

Academy staff will also capitalise on Edinburgh's research excellence in

science and medicine, much of it in disciplines at the leading edge of scientific inquiry, such as genomics, data science and bioinformatics. There is the prospect too of synergies with Edinburgh's world-leading research across the humanities and social sciences in areas as diverse as law, business, economics and politics.

Professor Simm believes this multi-faceted approach will benefit vulnerable communities.

"Too often in the past, the focus has been on just one part of the process," he says. "We need to look instead at the whole picture – from growing crops to taking them to market – and be aware that food is a wider cultural matter that has huge behavioural and political ramifications."

The key issues are well documented – a global population expected to top 11 billion by the end of the century; a growing appetite in the developing world for a Western diet; and the paradox that 800 million people starve while two billion are overweight.

In addition to world-class research, teaching will play a pivotal role in helping the Academy achieve its objectives. It will offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses that build on the University's reputation for online distance learning and face-to-face teaching.

The Academy's greatest legacy, believes Professor Simm, would be producing cohorts of highly trained specialists who make a difference in regions most affected by food insecurity.

"When our students become part of the next generation of leaders able to provide long-term solutions, then we can begin to be judged a success," he reflects.

None of these advances can be achieved in isolation. The new Academy will work closely with Scotland's Rural College and a range of partners in the UK and across Africa, Asia and Latin America, including universities, governments, charities, Non-Government Organisations and industry. The CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers and the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi will also be important associates.

For Professor Simm, who has a research background in livestock genetics and breeding, casting a wide net is crucial.

"Agriculture is under pressure as never before," he says. "There is a massive effort globally to meet the United Nation's sustainability goals. We want to be part of the bigger family of institutions which is tackling these problems."

The global ethos of all the existing Academies has encouraged the University as a whole to be more interdisciplinary and broader in its choice of partner institutions.

For James Smith, Edinburgh's Vice-Principal International and Professor of African and Development Studies, this is vital for our future development as an educational institution.

"We live in a complex, interconnected world that demands new ways of doing things," he says. "The quest for plentiful, safe, sustainable food requires a sophisticated response. We are duty bound to build relationships and pathways that ensure our work has a meaningful impact." 

 www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-global/academies

Taking the initiative

The University's Innovation Initiative Grants support the creativity and invention of our students and staff. Here are some of the latest projects and success stories.

Innovation Initiative Grants (IIGs), funded entirely through donations to the Edinburgh Fund, are small project grants that enable students and staff to test ideas, initiate projects and invest in equipment and facilities.

More than 1,300 students and staff have applied for IIGs over the past five years. With only around 60 successful applications each year, the judging process is rigorous. Experts pore over proposals, ensuring grants are awarded only to the most innovative, fresh ideas that will make a meaningful difference to student life, research or the wider community.

"My first application was rejected," says Alex MacLaren, tutor at the Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture. "But that turned out to be incredibly valuable, as I was given useful feedback and, when I applied four years later, I was much better placed to use the funding and make a real impact."

Since 2012, Alex and colleague Fiona McLaughlin have been working with Baltic Street Adventure Playground in

Dalmarnock, Glasgow, giving students hands-on experience working with the community.

In previous years Alex, Fiona and their students built sandpits and treehouses in the playground. However, this summer, IIG funding allowed the team to build one of Scotland's first WikiHouses – an open-source initiative that enables people to download software and construct small light-weight buildings.

"We were delighted to be granted the funding," says Alex. "We heard the news in March and got to work right away, as the best time to get students involved was before they graduated in June.

"The whole process took two weeks, and has been an incredible success. Students worked closely with the children and apprentices from BAM Construction. This was invaluable as they were working with contractors just as they would in real life, and had to make sure the kids – effectively the clients – were happy with the project. I really believe it's these sorts of experiences that ensure our students complete their studies as well-rounded



Illustration from *History Project* by Munro Te Whata.



The HarmonyChoir project.



The WikiHouse in Dalmarnock.

graduates, prepared for the professional world."

The WikiHouse itself has become a valued asset for the playground. "The idea was that the process of making was more important than the product. However, just this week I've been told that a trade apprenticeship programme will refurbish the house and it will become a project room for the playground's artists-in-residence," says Alex.

"The grant offered to us this year has not only given our students an unparalleled experience, but has had a truly positive impact in the area."

Another project recently awarded funding came to fruition during Edinburgh's August festivals. "It meant everything to get that green light," says Liesbeth Tip, PhD student in Clinical Psychology. "To know that the University was backing my idea meant I could take it even further than I imagined."

Liesbeth's IIG-funded HarmonyChoir project came to life through her love of music and awareness of the profound positive impact singing can have on wellbeing. "People with mental health issues often feel isolated and inferior," she explains. "And while there are numerous community choirs and music therapy groups, I believed that blending the two could be really beneficial and help lessen the stigma around mental health."

Liesbeth rallied a group of more than 50 people from various backgrounds and held a number of rehearsals before a sell-out show at the Just Festival. At the event, the choir sang uplifting songs, which were interspersed with talks on taboos surrounding mental health.

"The grant offered to us this year has not only given our students an unparalleled experience, but has had a truly positive impact in the area."

Alex MacLaren

Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture

Professor Tina Harrison, who took part in the choir, says, "It was great to meet so many different people. Everyone was so enthusiastic, and everyone was equal – mental health was not mentioned when we rehearsed. Liesbeth has left a fantastic legacy and it has been incredible to see what she has achieved with a relatively small amount of money."

"Although the choir was supposed to be short-lived, I'm delighted we are continuing with it and planning more performances," she adds.

In the department of English Literature, Dr Michelle Keown's IIG project coincides with the University's first ever course on the graphic novel. "The graphic novel is a rapidly expanding field of academic study," she explains, "and it's wonderful to have funding to develop resources and activities to support this innovation to our teaching programme."

The IIG funding will support two core activities. In February 2017, graphic novelist Simon Grennan will co-lead a seminar and workshop for Dr Keown's graphic novel students, helping them to visualise their ideas and transform them into a comic strip to accompany an essay. He will also deliver a public lecture, discussing how and why he adapted Anthony Trollope's 1879 novel *John Caldigate* into a graphic narrative entitled *Dispossession* (2015).

The IIG funds will also be used to commission a graphic adaptation of *History Project*, a performance poem by Marshallese eco-activist Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner. The poem explores the devastating impact of nuclear testing by the US on the environment and peoples of the Marshall Islands, located in the north Pacific Ocean.

"To develop the difficult themes that arise in the poem, we have commissioned Maori artist Munro Te Whata to illustrate it as a graphic narrative," Dr Keown says. "The resulting comic will be a valuable resource for students, and will be available to a global audience on the open-access website we are creating."

"The graphic novel is one of the most exciting new literary genres to be taught in universities, and I am very proud that Edinburgh has been so forward-thinking in granting this award. These contributions make a huge difference, allowing dedicated students and academics in all disciplines to turn innovative ideas into reality." 🇨🇭

The spring round of Innovation Initiative Grants applications opens on Thursday 16 February 2017. The application deadline is 12pm Thursday 30 March 2017. For more information, visit www.ed.ac.uk/development-alumni/iig

Lunch mates



bulletin invited two members of staff to meet up and discover more about each other. Here's what happened when Neil Hudson, Senior Veterinary Clinical Lecturer, and Lilly Jenkins, Administrative and Outreach Co-ordinator, had lunch together at the Grassmarket Community Project.

Neil

What were your expectations before meeting for lunch?

I thought it would be a great way to meet and find out about someone from a completely different subject area at the University.

What did you talk about?

We talked about our jobs, hobbies and our outreach activities.

Can you tell us a little about Lilly's role?

Lilly is an Administrative and Outreach Co-ordinator in the University's Alwaleed Centre, which aims to understand Islamic culture through innovative outreach projects.

Are there any synergies between your roles?

Yes, we both are heavily involved in outreach and widening participation initiatives.

Can you think of how you might work together in future?

Sharing ideas on best practice with schools visits and workshops.

What's the best thing about Lilly's role?

Lilly enjoys the scope for travel in her role and seeing different places, for example, a school visit to Mull.

How does Lilly commute into work?

Lilly goes by bus.

What's Lilly's favourite lunch place?

Arthur's Café in the Southside.

Did you find you had any hobbies or outside-of-work ventures in common?

We both like music and both like to keep fit. Lilly's favourite song at the moment is 'Wide Eyes' by Local Natives.

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

Lilly

What were your expectations before meeting for lunch?

Some interesting conversation!

What did you talk about?

We each talked about the variety of work within our jobs. Particularly on how both our roles involve a significant amount of school outreach work, and how, coincidentally, we have collaborated with the same Edinburgh school within the last few months, just on a very different subject matter.

Can you tell us a little about Neil's role?

Neil's work appears to be very external facing; in that he regularly engages with people on the topic of veterinary medicine but it also appears to have a very caring element to it as well, in that he clearly has a love for all creatures great and small.

Are there any synergies between your roles?

We were able to relate to each other's work in that we take much pleasure from positively contributing to the lifelong learning of young people on a local and international dimension.

Can you think of how you might work together in future?

The sharing of ideas?

What's the best thing about Neil's role?

Neil talked passionately about how he really enjoys "seeing the students at work".

How does Neil commute into work?

Neil drives to work and in the summer months sometimes cycles in.

What's Neil's favourite lunch place?

Indigo Yard, located in Haymarket.

Did you find you had any hobbies or outside-of-work ventures in common?

Neil is into playing cricket, cycling and walking, and has a love for music, for example, playing the piano at church. His favourite song at the moment is 'Everglow' by Coldplay.

Sport update

New year, new gym membership



Sport & Exercise's world-class gym is open to everybody, so if you're thinking of joining a gym in the new year, look no further. We've got a 102-station CV Gym, dedicated free weights space, body conditioning area and much more.

Memberships for University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh University Students' Association staff start at under £4 a week and can be purchased online at www.sport.ed.ac.uk or at the Pleasance Sports Complex & Gym.

A class act



With over 90 sessions a week, our exercise class timetable is jam-packed with fun and physical activity. There's something for everybody, with classes from Cardio Street Funk to Hatton Boxing! BeachBody Live and Les Mills offerings are also available, including Les Mills RPM in our newly refurbished spin studio, Velocity.

Want to be more active?

Our Support for Physical Activity (SPA) Programme is a free service that helps staff and students become more active, more often. Aimed at those doing less than 150 minutes of physical activity a week, the programme offers a series of sessions with our dedicated SPA Programme Officer to help you set and manage your goals. To book an appointment, email: spa.programme@ed.ac.uk



upcoming events



Climbing Night

Our climbing wall's hotly anticipated Climbing Nights return for the new semester on 6 February. As always, entry is only £3 and there will be prizes and pizza too. Visit www.sport.ed.ac.uk to find out the theme for the evening.



Burgh Varsity

The University of Edinburgh's sports teams will do battle with Heriot Watt in Burgh Varsity, week commencing 27 March 2017. Keep up-to-date with the Sports Union's social media for a full schedule.

Boat Race

Save the date for 20 May – Edinburgh will be taking on the University of Glasgow in the Scottish Boat Race on the Clyde. It's a great day out and an excellent opportunity to see our world-class rowers in action.

www.sport.ed.ac.uk

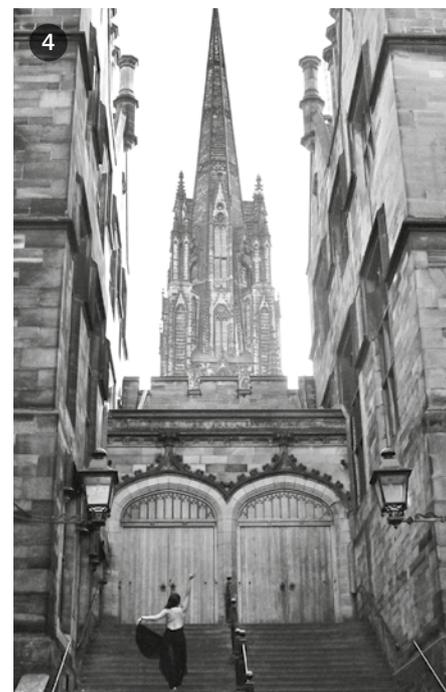
Capturing the moment



The theme of the 2016 annual International Office photography competition was *Faodail | Dùn Èideann: A lucky find | Edinburgh*.

The Gaelic theme aimed to draw a connection between international Edinburgh and the rich culture of Scotland through the following four categories: Sealladh/View, Ionnsaich/Learn, Coimhearsnachd/Community and Thall thairis/Abroad. Here we celebrate the winning entries.

To view the gallery online or download a calendar, visit www.ed.ac.uk/photo-competition





- 1 Paulo Valdivia, from Chile, an aurora over Edinburgh: First prize (submitted in Sealladh/View category).
- 2 Hannah Stevenson, from Canada, a street mural in Toronto. Second prize (submitted in Thall thairis/Abroad category).
- 3 Tezcan Cogalan, from Turkey, a view over Edinburgh. Category prize: Sealladh/View.
- 4 Brianna Sommer, from USA, a view of New College. Category prize: Ionnsaich/Learn.
- 5 Yunong Gou, from China, Edinburgh city scene. Category prize: Coimhearsnachd/Community.
- 6 India Herlem, from the UK, dancing in Berlin. Category prize: Thall thairis/Abroad.
- 7 Fei Fang, from China, family on Portobello Beach. Principal's choice prize.
- 8 Miranda Garralda, from Hong Kong, sunset on the Meadows. People's choice prize.



people news

A selection of achievements, accolades and appointments.

in brief

Shaw Prize for Genetics expert

Professor Sir Adrian Bird has been presented with the Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine. The Buchanan Professor of Genetics in the School of Biological Sciences was recognised for the discovery of genes and proteins linked to the developmental disorder Rett syndrome. Sir Adrian shares the prize with Professor Huda Zoghbi of Baylor College of Medicine, Director of Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute, Texas Children's Hospital and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, US.

Academics join Royal Society's Young Academy

Twelve members of University staff have been recognised as emerging leaders in their academic fields by becoming the newest members of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Academy of Scotland:

Dr Stephen Brusatte, Chancellor's Fellow in Vertebrate Palaeontology; Dr Javier Escudero Rodriguez, Chancellor's Fellow in Biomedical Signal Processing; Dr Philip Hands, Chancellor's Fellow in Microelectronics; Dr Louise Horsfall, Lecturer in Biotechnology; Dr Olof Johansson, Royal Society of Edinburgh/BP Trust Research Fellow; Dr Stephen Thomas, Royal Society University Research Fellow; Dr Matthew Chrisman, Reader in Philosophy; Dr Sotiria Grek, Lecturer in Social Policy; Dr Wenxuan Hou, Reader in Finance; Dr Nikki Moran, Lecturer in Music; Dr Niki Vermeulen, Lecturer in History/Sociology of Science and Wellcome Research Fellow; Dr Kathrin Cresswell, Chief Scientist Office Postdoctoral Fellow.

Vet recognised for welfare efforts

Heather Bacon has received the British Veterinary Association's Trevor Blackburn Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to improving animal health and welfare through education, charity work and research. Heather's current work at the University's Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education involves providing education and practical skills training to vets and undergraduates in China, India, Vietnam and Thailand.

Senior staff honoured



The following staff have been recognised in the Queen's Honours lists.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Charlie Jeffery (pictured above receiving his award from the Princess Royal), Professor of Politics and Senior Vice-Principal of the University: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to social science.

David Fergusson, Principal of the School of Divinity: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to education, the arts and the Church of Scotland.

Pam Smith, Professor of Nursing Education in the School of Health and Social Science: Member of the Order of

the British Empire (MBE) for services to nursing and nurse education.

Dr John Kitchen, Senior Lecturer in Music for 27 years before retiring in 2014, and Organist: MBE for services to music.

Dr Sharon Hannah, BioQuarter Campus Operations Manager: British Empire Medal for services to medical research.

New Year's Honours

Professor Susan Deacon, Assistant Principal External Relations: CBE for services to business, education and public service.

Professor Christopher Haslett, Director of the Queen's Medical Research Institute: CBE for services to medical research.

Tovey Professor of Music Simon Frith: OBE for services to higher education and popular music.

Susan Rhind, Professor and Chair of Veterinary Education at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies: OBE for services to veterinary education.

The Reverend Dr Harriet Harris, the University Chaplain: MBE for services to multi-faith education.

Kathleen Hood, lately Head of Widening Participation: MBE for services to widening participation in higher education.

Cool runnings

Dr Andrew Murray, from the University's Physical Activity for Health Research Centre, was announced as the winner of the Points of Light award by Prime Minister Theresa May. It recognises outstanding individual volunteers who make a difference in their community.

As part of his fundraising, Dr Murray ran 4,300 km from John O'Groats to the Sahara desert, and seven ultra-marathons on the seven continents in under a week. He also spends time raising awareness of the benefits of physical activity.



New director for Talbot Rice Gallery

Tessa Giblin, a highly experienced curator of international standing, has been appointed as the new Director of the University's prestigious art gallery. She took over from Pat Fisher in November 2016.

Born and raised in New Zealand, Tessa joins the University from Project Arts Centre where she has worked for a decade.

She said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed to lead the Talbot Rice Gallery and to begin working with so many wonderful colleagues from Edinburgh College of Art and the wider University. This rich academic and artistic environment will define the character of our exhibitions programme, continuing the gallery's long history of working with contemporary art and collections."

Tessa is Commissioner of the Pavilion of Ireland at the Venice Biennale, where she



and Project Arts Centre will continue to work together to present Jesse Jones in 2017. Talbot Rice will also take part in the Biennale next year to deliver Scotland + Venice 2017 in a dynamic partnership with Alchemy Film and Arts, Creative Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland, to present the work of Edinburgh College of Art graduate Rachel Maclean.

www.ed.ac.uk/talbot-rice

Centre for Cultural Relations welcomes new director

One of the world's leading experts on cultural economics and policy has been appointed as director of the University's Centre for Cultural Relations (CCR).

Professor JP Singh, one of the world's leading experts on cultural economics and policy, joins the University from George Mason University in Virginia, USA. Prior to George Mason, he was based at Georgetown University for 12 years.

The author of several books about the interplay between culture and international affairs. Professor Singh has also advised international organisations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization.

Professor Singh said: "I am delighted to be joining the University. Most of the global problems we're confronted with now cannot be examined purely within the confines of traditional academic disciplines. Global inequality, for example, speaks to politics but also to economics, sociology and culture. Edinburgh and the Centre for Cultural Relations will be one of the first to cut through these silos in



teaching international cultural relations. We have the power, knowledge-base and global connections to deliberate these issues."

The CCR is a hub for research and knowledge exchange across the University. It has been established to lead the way in understanding how culture, art and sport are connecting people and institutions across the world and how new forms of communication are shaping global society.

www.ed.ac.uk/centre-for-cultural-relations

Chancellor's Award winners

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

Professors Lesley McAra and **Susan McVie** became the first recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Impact, a new category for this year. It honours colleagues whose outstanding research has made a demonstrable contribution to society, globally or locally outside direct academic recognition. They were recognised for the outstanding impact on policy and practice and, through that, the experience of young people that has resulted from their work on The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime.

Professor McAra is Assistant Principal Community Relations and Chair of Penology and Professor McVie is Chair of Quantitative Criminology, both in the School of Law.

The Award for Teaching was given to **Dr Jessie Paterson**, a lecturer in Student Learning at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. It recognised her outstanding leadership, innovation and impact in student support and in online and face-to-face course development and delivery.

Professor Andrew Rambaut was the recipient of the Award for Research in recognition of his exceptional work in the epidemiology of rapidly evolving viruses. Professor Rambaut holds a Personal Chair in Molecular Evolution in the School of Biological Sciences.

Dr Sam Spiegel received the Rising Star Award, which honours early-career colleagues who demonstrate great potential. A lecturer in International Development and Director of Research, Centre of African Studies, he was commended on the resonance and impact of his work in development studies.

www.ed.ac.uk/chancellors-awards

my nine-to-five



Please explain your job in a nutshell.

Engaging alumni and donors in the futures of our students and the goals of the University in ways that are meaningful, rewarding and energising for everyone involved.

What are your main goals?

On-going increase in gift and philanthropic support for key priorities within the Strategic Plan (roughly doubling this every five years), and developing programmes which can engage alumni individually – and at scale – across the University, especially in relation to the student experience and employability.

What projects are you working on at the moment?

Reframing how we present giving opportunities to donors under broad and flexible themes so we connect our work to issues in the world that matter to them; planning with Careers and wider colleagues a new alumni-student online mentoring platform; working with the International Office and Communications and Marketing on embedding alumni in the internationalisation agenda for the University; finalising a structure to allow donors to support early stage spin-out and student social enterprises; and preparing Development and Alumni (D&A) and the University more widely for the major changes coming in data protection (and lobbying with others to minimise fall-out for the higher education sector).

Who do you deal with week to week?

Academic and policy leaders across the Colleges and professional support services; students (never regularly enough – they always brighten any day); current and potential donors; volunteer board members and Regents in Edinburgh and internationally; colleagues in similar roles across the UK and through CASE, our primary professional network; and my terrific, thoughtful and talented colleagues in D&A.

Please describe a typical day.

The beauty of the job is that there is no such thing. It is very varied, which is both energising and challenging. But on most days there's a good deal of negotiation – mainly of the soft kind to build consensus and bring the right people together to make positive things happen.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?

When donors thank us quietly for matching them up with students and researchers who are doing such great things. There's plenty of pressure and three-in-the-morning worries, but those moments make it all incredibly worthwhile.

 www.ed.ac.uk/development-alumni

Get organised...



Desk: organised or a beautiful mess?

Both. Like my bedroom floor, I know where to find things.

Routine, or take it as it comes?

Some routines, mainly to 'chunk' necessary internal meetings together, to leave sufficient flexibility for travel and opportunities that can be unpredictable.

Are you a list person?

Yes, and I sometimes look at the list.

Daily staples?

Coffee in the morning. Best avoided until I'm on my third.

Favourite lunch spots?

The Outsider.

...and now relax

Favourite pastimes?

Music. Mainly listening but also conduct occasionally in an intensely amateur fashion. Sport (long-suffering Newcastle United fan, though some light relief this year). Walking. Hills when I can, but enjoying urban walking here in such a beautiful setting; trying to self-manage my growing step-counter obsession.

Best time of year, and why?

No favourite time, more a liking for the changing seasons. The unpredictability of our weather is what makes it special. I love the fact you can throw the curtains open in April and absolutely anything could be out there, and usually is.

Perfect Sunday afternoon?

At home messing about like an idiot with the family. Gets it out of my system so I can present some semblance of maturity during the week.

Ideal holiday?

City break in Barcelona. Makes you feel proud to be European. Don't start me...



competition

Can you spot the difference?

The prize on offer in this edition is a back, neck and shoulder massage and a facial at Serenity Beauty Boutique on Bread Street in Edinburgh.

To enter, compare the illustration on the right to the one on the left. You're looking for five differences. Circle each one and send us your entry no later than **6 March 2017** to the address on page 2. Correct entries will be entered in a draw and the winner will be selected at random.



Serenity Beauty Boutique

University of Edinburgh exclusive discount

50% off first beauty treatment

10% off thereafter

excludes special offers

07743 457183

serenity_beautyboutique@outlook.com

www.serenitybeautybout.wixsite.com/beauty

www.facebook.com/SerenityBeautyB

6–8 Bread Street

within CrownCouture





exhibition

The Torrie Collection
Until 7 May 2017 at the Talbot Rice Gallery
Admission Free

For the first time in more than a decade the University of Edinburgh's founding art collection has been brought back together in the Georgian Gallery of Talbot Rice.

Containing some of the finest Dutch painting and Renaissance sculpture in Scotland, the Torrie Collection was bequeathed by Sir James Erskine, Third Baronet of Torrie. Erskine wished the collection "to lay the foundation of a Gallery for the encouragement of the Fine Arts" and his bequest is part of a philanthropic tradition that birthed many public collections in Britain.

The Torrie Collection came to the University in 1836, with 2016 marking the 180th anniversary of its arrival.

 www.ed.ac.uk/talbot-rice