Festive cheer
Switching on the Christmas lights at Old College

Fond farewell
We say goodbye to our Principal Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea

Art on campus
The overlooked art treasures all around us

Peace and good food
Lunch mates is back

Competition & giveaway
Spot the difference and win Cinderella tickets
Welcome to the winter edition of your staff magazine.

Historically, bulletin has appeared in January, but since we are now quarterly, we decided to publish before Christmas and bring you some festive cheer by showcasing the lighting up ceremony in Old College, replete with all traditional trimmings. See pages 10 and 11 for a flavour of the occasion.

We say farewell to our Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea at the end of January 2018, with his successor Professor Peter Mathieson due to start on 5 February. You’ll see Sir Tim appearing several times in this issue, from switching on the Christmas lights in our cover story to receiving the prestigious Edinburgh Award in our People News section, and giving a reflective and humorous appraisal of his term in office on pages 8 and 9.

Other highlights this issue include the return of our popular Lunch mates feature (which now alternates with our My nine-to-five feature) on page 17, and the chance to win tickets to the Kings Theatre’s Christmas panto on page 19.

Wishing all our staff and students a merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year in 2018.

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

For regular updates, visit Staff News at www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff and follow us on Twitter @EdinUniStaff
A n anonymous donor has pledged £10m to help fund a University initiative that will address some of society’s most pressing concerns. The gift – the biggest ever capital donation to the University – will help to transform the city’s former Royal Infirmary into a state-of-the-art home for the new Edinburgh Futures Institute.

The Institute, which launched in November, will bring together researchers from across the University with other partners to tackle major issues within the economy, education and societies across the world. Upon moving into the former Royal Infirmary in 2021, it will be one of the largest centres for interdisciplinary learning and research in Europe.

It will showcase the University’s world-renowned expertise in the humanities, social sciences and arts, alongside its sector-leading work in data science – the collecting, organising and interpreting of large sets of digital information.

Social work centenary

The University’s centre for excellence in social work has launched a series of events to celebrate its 100th birthday.

Since its establishment in January 1918, it has become one of the most respected centres for social work education and research in the UK.

Centenary celebrations began with a launch event in September at the Playfair Library where experts looked at Edinburgh’s role in changing the way the profession is taught and regarded today.

A programme of events and activities will take place throughout 2018, including a series of informal interviews and conversations sharing social work experiences across generations, several new publications, and the hosting of the European Social Work Research Conference at the University in April 2018.

www.socialwork.ed.ac.uk/centenary

Commitment to technicians

The University has signed up to the Technician Commitment, a higher education initiative that aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians across all disciplines.

Technicians are essential to our success in delivering research, teaching and knowledge transfer activities, and many of them are teachers and researchers in their own right.

Edinburgh joins 54 other UK universities and institutions – including many from the Russell Group – who have made the pledge to take action against the key challenges affecting technical staff in gaining recognition and career progression.

To find out more, visit www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/technicians-commitment
New partnership to benefit students

The University recently launched its first student partnership agreement, building on its long and productive partnership with the Students' Association. The agreement highlights how students and staff can work together effectively to enhance the student experience.

Funds of up to £500 are available for students and staff to submit bids to undertake work that supports the agreement. Projects must involve both students and staff, be linked to a key theme, and must be completed by 1 July 2018.

The key themes for the 2017/18 academic year are student voice, academic support and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

www.ed.ac.uk/students/academic-life/student-voice

Youth and student employment drive

The University’s new Youth and Student Employment Strategy (2017–2021) has been published. It focuses on the University becoming a leading local employer for youth and student employment by inspiring and developing the next-generation workforce.

The aim is to advance our delivery of meaningful youth and student employment opportunities across the University that will make significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution for individuals, our workforce and the local community.

One of the core components of the strategy is the introduction of an annual apprenticeship cohort starting in mid-2018.

To find out about the benefits of hosting a Modern Apprentice in your team, or to download a copy of the new strategy, visit www.edin.ac/youth-talent

TIBA tackles diseases in Africa

Teams of scientists from Africa and the UK are to pool their expertise in dozens of research projects across the continent. They will seek to develop better treatments for conditions such as malaria and sleeping sickness, and to be better prepared for epidemics such as Ebola.

The £7 million initiative – named Tackling Infections to Benefit Africa, or TIBA, after the Swahili word to cure infection – launched in October and aims to harness and develop expertise in partner countries.

Researchers aims to improve the health of affected populations by strengthening every part of the health system – from lab research to clinical treatments – supported by experts in infectious disease and global health at the University.

www.tiba-partnership.org
University in $1bn UK-China campus

A new $1 billion campus near Shanghai was officially opened in October, as part of an innovative UK-China education partnership.

The purpose-built International Campus at Haining, Zhejiang Province, which will eventually accommodate 5,000 students, brings together biomedical researchers and teaching staff from the University and Zhejiang University.

Staff from Edinburgh and Zhejiang will deliver a four-year degree in Biomedical Sciences – the first of its type in China – which will be taught entirely in English.

The programme will offer a curriculum reflecting the full breadth of biomedical science, including infectious diseases, neuroscience, pharmacology, physiology and reproductive biology.

The Zhejiang University – University of Edinburgh Institute will also have a strong emphasis on research, with leading international scientists recruited to work alongside colleagues from Edinburgh and Zhejiang.

Teaching will be provided by a mixture of staff based permanently at the new campus, and a ‘flying faculty’ from Edinburgh – staff who will travel to China for 12-week periods.

City Region Deal update

Final business cases set for submission to government as planning continues for key partnerships.

Teams across the University have been working with regional partners to complete proposals for the recently announced City Region Deal (CRD) for Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

Following this summer’s announcement, detailed business cases for the Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Programme have been developed and will soon be submitted to government for a final agreement. On 20 July 2017, agreement in principle was reached that the UK and Scottish governments and CRD partners would together invest up to £1.1 billion in activities designed to address inclusive economic growth for the region. The business cases outline plans for the key elements of a new DDI campus in the region: the Bayes Centre, Usher Institute, Edinburgh Futures Institute, Easter Bush, and National Robotarium (a joint initiative with Heriot-Watt) – all underpinned by world-class data infrastructure.

Assistant Principal for Industry Engagement, Kevin Collins said: “The CRD will strengthen our credentials as a civic university that makes a long-lasting contribution to inclusive economic growth and social impact across the region. On behalf of the University’s CRD senior governance group, I am hugely grateful to all those who have put time and effort into developing the business cases and, needless to say, the final approval from government is eagerly anticipated so we can launch the programme. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on working with our partners to develop opportunities to grow research, talent and skills, entrepreneurship, adoption, and world-class datasets.”

Governance arrangements are also being prepared for how the DDI Programme will function, with academic leads set to spearhead partnerships in target industries, such as space and satellite, financial services, and health and social care.

A final agreement on funding is anticipated in the first half of 2018.

Community grant scheme launches

The University’s community engagement team is launching a small grant scheme where community organisations can bid for money for local projects.

Organisations can apply for up to £5,000, with a minimum of eight awards spread over several opportunities to bid each year. Ideally, successful bids will be able to demonstrate some longer-term impact and show continuing positive benefits after funding runs out.

They must also involve and benefit people living or working in the Edinburgh city region, which includes Edinburgh, Fife, West Lothian, Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

Community Engagement Strategy

The Community Engagement Strategy was published in November and is available from the Visitor Centre. It can also be downloaded from the new Local section of the website.

www.ed.ac.uk/local
**Too much information as we age**

The risk of oversharing in conversation – or providing a listener with too much irrelevant detail – increases as we age, research suggests.

That is the conclusion of research carried out by the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, working with Northwestern University in Illinois. Tests carried out on a group of 100 people show the thinking skills that influence how we respond to people’s points of view deteriorate with age.

Linguists used a series of computerised listening and visual tests to assess thinking skills in the group, whose ages ranged from 17 to 84 years old. The team tested how participants’ attention skills – the ability to concentrate on one thing and ignore another – influenced their ability to consider a partner’s perspective in conversation.

Firstly, they tracked inhibition – the ability to focus and ignore distracting information. Then they monitored switching – the ability to shift focus between two different sounds and filter relevant information.

The team found an age-related decline in attention switching skills, and that this ability determined how older adults responded to their partner’s perspective. For younger adults, their ability to filter distracting information was what determined their ability to consider others’ perspectives more effectively.

It is hoped the findings can be used to design targeted training that helps older adults improve these skills and avoid embarrassing and potentially risky communicative errors.

**Scientists help chart neutron star collision**

Two University scientists have taken part in the first detection and analysis of a powerful astronomical event – the merger of two very dense neutron stars. The event, some 130 million light years away, is the latest discovery made using sophisticated gravitational wave detectors.

David Homan, a postgraduate researcher from the School of Physics & Astronomy, was working at the NTT telescope in Chile when the team there was alerted to the event, and Jonathan Gair, a researcher from the School of Mathematics, took part in the gravitational wave data analysis and scientific interpretation of the event.

The results give unprecedented insight into the processes involved when neutron stars collide in deep space. It is the first binary neutron star collision to be observed by the international Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) collaboration, and the first gravitational wave event to be observed by conventional telescopes.

Observing the same event in different ways provides much more information about the processes involved when neutron stars collide in deep space. It has also allowed a measurement of the rate at which the universe is expanding – known to scientists the Hubble constant.

**Medical camera sheds light on endoscopy**

The College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine has helped to develop a prototype camera that can see through the human body, allowing doctors to track medical tools known as endoscopes that are used to investigate a range of internal conditions.

Until now, it has not been possible to track where an endoscope is located in the body in order to guide it to the right place without using X-rays or other expensive methods. Light from the endoscope can pass through the body, but it usually scatters or bounces off tissues and organs rather than travelling straight through. This makes it nearly impossible to get a clear picture of where the endoscope is.

The new camera takes advantage of advanced technology that can detect individual particles of light, called photons, and can be used at the patient’s bedside.

The project – led by the University and Heriot-Watt University – is part of the Proteus Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration, which is developing a range of revolutionary new technologies for diagnosing and treating lung diseases.
Launch of new student engagement network

The Institute of Academic Development (IAD) is supporting a range of initiatives to help build positive relationships between students and staff, and enhance the sense of academic community and engagement at the University. These include a new student engagement network called ENGAGE (Edinburgh Network: Growing Approaches to Genuine Engagement) as well as practical guides to student engagement in a range of teaching and assessment issues, advice, staff seminars and other initiatives.

ENGAGE aims to help bring together those interested in creating meaningful interactions between students and staff, focused on learning, teaching and assessment. The network plans to hold events every 6–8 weeks, to share ideas, research and practice, and offer space for discussion and collegial support.

To find out more or join the ENGAGE mailing list, email catherine.bovill@ed.ac.uk or rosie.bree@ed.ac.uk

Online programme helps save endangered animals

Studying online with the University gave Rwandan wildlife conservationist Olivier Nsengimana the opportunity to write a project proposal for saving Rwanda’s grey crowned-crane, a proposal that went on to win the Rolex Award for Enterprise. Olivier, who works as a field veterinarian and scientist, is committed to saving the grey crowned-crane, of which only 300–500 remain in the Rwandan wild.

Olivier graduated from the University in 2015 after spending three years studying a masters in veterinary science (MVetSci) in conservation medicine part-time by online learning. After winning the Rolex Award, Olivier went on to win the 2017 National Geographic Buffett Award, and was one of three finalists in the 2016 Tusk Conservation Awards.

The lecturers were very friendly and accessible and I felt as if I was connected to the university and the year group much more than I thought would be possible for an online programme.

Olivier Nsengimana

Lister Learning and Teaching Centre opens

As part of a range of investments around learning and teaching, the former Lister and Pfizer buildings at Roxburgh Place are being renovated.

The £10 million project to create a new modern, fully accessible learning and teaching facility at the University is taking place in four phases, the first of which ended in September. Once fully complete, the Lister Learning and Teaching Centre will provide capacity for 900 students. It will offer a mix of classrooms, tutorial and study space and a lecture theatre. Secure cycle racks will also be available.

In the meantime, the building is now up and running, with a number of spaces available for booking via the timetabling unit. You can access the centre through a temporary entrance on Roxburgh Place, just a short walk from George Square. This entrance will remain in use until the redevelopment is completed in early 2018.

To book classrooms online, visit www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information/bookable
MOOCS, mergers, Mandarin Burns suppers – and sleeping rough in the park. Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea demits office in January 2018 after 15 years. 

*bulletin* invited our esteemed and – in both senses – outgoing Principal to reflect on his time here at Edinburgh.

**What have been your most important achievements during your time in office?**

I would say the very much increased internationalisation of the staff and student body, taking leadership in eLearning via MOOCs and online masters courses, quadrupling our research income, and the construction of attractive new buildings like the Informatics Forum and the vet school. Also, the negotiation of three very important strategic mergers – with Edinburgh College of Art, with the Roslin Institute, and with the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine. And the restoring and renovating of several of our iconic buildings for the University and the city, such as McEwan Hall and St Cecilia’s Hall.

**How would you compare the University now to what it was like upon your arrival back in 2002?**

It now has a very strong worldwide reputation and at the same time is much more engaged with the city through charity work, the festivals and outreach events.

**What have been your biggest challenges?**

I think simultaneously dealing with Westminster and Holyrood governments, finding ways of supporting broad international interdisciplinary endeavours – but the five global academies are leading the way here – and establishing a greater sense of community in such a large, physically dispersed body. Reducing car parking to make the Old Quad and Moray House courtyard more beautiful again was a challenge too, but very rewarding.

**Is there anything that you’ve wanted to change or progress but have been unable to?**

I wished we could have progressed further on measures of student satisfaction, but I hope I have laid the foundations for an outstanding student experience through a lot of work and investment around new communications and infrastructure.
I feel sure the University will continue to grow, flourish and make the world a better place.

What will you miss most about the University?

Many, many things about the people and the job – especially the banter with our friendly servitors, and especially walking into the Old Quad at dawn.

Is it true you’ve slept rough in the park?

Yes, last December I took part in a sleep-out for charity, and this year I’ve been proud to involve the University in the Sleep in the Park event organised by Social Bite. It’s an inspiring experience and for a very good cause.

What plans have you got for when you leave?

I plan to grow vegetables and read art history books, and I would like to learn to sing.

There are a lot of challenges facing the HE sector – what are your hopes for the University in the future?

I feel sure the University will continue to grow, flourish and make the world a better place.

Do you envisage yourself returning for visits?

Yes, indeed – for concerts, exhibitions and as an emeritus professor of digital education in the Schools of Education and Informatics.

What advice would you have for your successor?

I would say trust the students and staff to do their very best, and think strategically for the long term, the next decade and the next 50 years.

What are your fondest or funniest memories at the University?

Going up Arthur’s Seat at dawn on Norwegian National Day with the students from Norway and watching them sing their anthem, drink aquavit and eat herring. Also when we had a combined Chinese New Year and Burns night in the Playfair Library – dim sum and haggis, kilts and silk jackets. Burns poems in Mandarin, whisky and green tea and wild reeling.

www.sleepinthepark.co.uk
In November, Old College Quad was once again illuminated by a spectacular Christmas tree, with staff and students invited along to enjoy the switching on of the lights by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea.

The Edinburgh Salvation Army band provided a cheery festive accompaniment to the event.
The Edinburgh Singers conducted by their director, the University’s organist Dr John Kitchen.

Sir Tim and his wife Lady O’Shea lighting the tree and enjoying the carols.

Revellers enjoying the event, during which hot drinks, mulled wine and mince pies were served.
Principal’s Medal winners

Professor Aziz Sheikh, Director of the Usher Institute, has been named as recipient of this year’s Principal’s Medal for Exceptional Service. Professor Sheikh receives the award in recognition of the work he and his team have made in allergy and respiratory research, including asthma.

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

The Principal’s Medal for Contribution to the Community has been awarded to undergraduates Alexandros Angelopoulos and Sam Kellerhals, both studying Ecological & Environmental Sciences with Management in the School of GeoSciences, for their work in developing Project Elpis.

The project seeks to connect people living in refugee camps in Greece to their countries of origin, and has developed and installed a series of solar hubs to allow people to charge their mobile phones and remain connected to their families and communities.

Double win at Converge Challenge

Dr Fiona Denison of the Medical Research Council Centre for Reproductive Health, and Juan Pablo Echenique of the School of Engineering both won prizes at September’s Converge Challenge entrepreneurial awards for Scotland’s universities and research institutes.

Dr Denison won the KickStart Digital Entrepreneur Award for her concept, Birth Mirror, a submersible, illuminated mirror to help midwives and mothers view the birthing process. Mr Echenique won the KickStart Award prize for his project, Power Enable Solutions, which uses algorithms to maximize wind turbine performance.

Principal among new engineering Fellows

The University’s Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea (see facing page), was one of three Edinburgh academics elected to the prestigious Royal Academy of Engineers in September.

He was joined by the School of Engineering’s Professor Michael Davies, and Professor Antoni Ziolkowski of the School of GeoSciences (below).

The Royal Academy of Engineers is the UK’s national academy for engineering. It brings together the most successful and talented engineers to promote excellence in, and public understanding of, engineering.

Principal’s Medal winners

Professor Aziz Sheikh

Double win at Converge Challenge

Dr Fiona Denison

Juan Pablo Echenique
Edinburgh Award for the Principal

The University’s Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, has been presented with the prestigious Edinburgh Award 2017, the city’s biggest annual accolade.

Friends, family and colleagues joined Sir Tim at a ceremony in the City Chambers in November as he was presented with an engraved Loving Cup from the Lord Provost Frank Ross, and a bespoke poem by the Edinburgh Makar Alan Spence, celebrating the difference he has made to the city and to the students of Edinburgh during his 15 years in office.

Sir Tim’s handprints have been set on a flagstone outside the City Chambers, alongside those of the 10 previous Edinburgh Award recipients, including fellow University academic Professor Peter Higgs, and alumni JK Rowling, Sir Chris Hoy and Ian Rankin.

Leading advisory role for professor

Professor Joyce Tait has been appointed to the Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology, which advises the Prime Minister on policy issues that cut across the responsibilities of individual UK government departments.

Professor Tait is the Director of the Innogen Institute, a collaboration between the University and the Open University, to explore the social and economic impact of innovation in the life sciences.

She has an interdisciplinary background, covering both natural and social sciences, and specialises in innovation-governance-stakeholder interactions in the life sciences and related areas.

New social science Fellows

Three leading Edinburgh academics have been made Fellows of the Academy of Social Science for the excellence and impact of their work for public benefit.

The new Fellows are drawn from the School of Social & Political Science and the Business School.

Vivien Cree, Professor of Social Work Studies, is a leading figure in social work research with special interests in talking and listening to children, and in the question of moral panics.

Jonathan Crook, Professor of Business Economics, has an international reputation in the area of credit risk modelling and the economics of consumer credit.

Jonathan Spencer, Regius Professor of South Asian Language, Culture and Society, is an internationally known expert on south Asian nationalism, in particular the Sri Lankan conflict.

New Director of Alumni Relations

Grant Spence has been appointed as the University’s new Director of Alumni Relations, with responsibility for its alumni engagement, events and protocol, and communications teams.

Grant takes up the newly defined alumni relations remit having previously served as the University’s Director of Development and Alumni Services. He has a background in change management, communications, operations management and corporate governance, spanning the financial services and higher education sectors.
‘Thair to remain’

The University has an extensive and varied range of public art that you may well be walking over, under or past without even noticing.

*bulletin* highlights just a few of these striking and thought-provoking pieces sited in and around our campuses.

1. Mesostic Interleaved, Alec Finlay, 2009
The dotted letters of this unique circular mesostic poem set in the ground outside the Main Library spell out words from the will of its founding benefactor. In 1580, Edinburgh advocate Clement Litill left 276 volumes ‘thair to remain’ in permanent safekeeping, as a memorial to his life.

Finlay’s artwork also consists of shelfmarks inside the library, and a set of 100 mesostic poems that were printed and distributed – interleaved – in 50,000 of its books.

A mesostic poem has highlighted letters that spell out a word, in this case the author of each book. Look out for them when you visit the library.
2. Parthenope and Egeria, Eduardo Paolozzi, 1997
Originally commissioned for the Swann Building, these two monumental bronze figures now stand outside the Murray Library at Kings Buildings. Representing the imaginative processes of art and science, Parthenope (foregrounded) and Egeria are the names of two asteroids the sculptor saw in a book on Newton.

A six-foot bronze and gold gilt sculpture of a naked male youth holding a torch, modelled on Edinburgh Boxer Anthony Hall. Standing high atop Old College, this symbol of learning is an icon of the University and the city. Regilding was completed in 2014.

The bronze Indian rhino head on the wall of the Informatics Forum is a tribute to The Paperback Bookshop owned by Jim Haynes that stood on the same site in the 1960s, and specifically to the eye-catching rhino head that hung outside it.

5. Bite on the Haynes Nano Stage, Davy Forsyth, 2012
The area of the Informatics Forum around this stainless steel hardback book is the so-called nano stage, an homage to bookshop owner Jim Haynes’ involvement in the Festival Fringe and Traverse Theatre.

6. Sprinting Afghan Hound, Matthew Sanderson 1999
Situated outside the Small Animal Hospital at Easter Bush, this beautiful, part-skeletal bronze sculpture was created using an electroforming technique, and is a memorial to former staff member Olive Smith.
The four giant sucker darts stuck to the wall above the entrance to Edinburgh College of Art were created for its 2016 degree show by then undergraduate James Boyle, and have been left in place. Made from powder-coated steel, they can be read as a satirical reminder of the way in which society condones violence.

8. Recumbent Horse/Startled Horse Rising, John Steell, 1833
This stone sculpture at the Equine Hospital was originally sited in front of the original William Dick’s Veterinary School in Clyde Street, and then at Summerhall before being moved to Easter Bush in 2003. It is unclear whether it was carved by John Steell the elder or younger, although the latter seems more plausible as many of his works include figures of horses.

9. Let my blood be a seed of freedom, Paul Grime, 1992/93
This decorative relief of acrylic-painted glass-reinforced concrete on the wall at the Dalkeith Road entrance to Pollock Halls takes its title from a quotation by San Salvador archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered in 1980: ‘Let my blood be a seed of freedom and a sign that hope will soon be a reality.’

10. The Dreamer, Chris Hall, 1997
Two raw blocks of sandstone standing unobtrusively in George Square Gardens are divided into the dreamer and her shadow, illustrating the Jungian concept of the persona and shadow. A tribute to Dr Winifred Rushforth OBE (1895–1993), eminent Jungian psychoanalyst and graduate of the University.

11. The Next Big Thing is a Series of Little Things, Susan Collis, 2017
Installed by local foundry Powderhall Bronze, the latest public artwork commissioned by the University was created in the newly redeveloped Bristo Square in October. A series of bronze circular inlets set in the ground running from the main door of MacEwan Hall to the other side of the square, it is intended to look as if someone has walked across with a leaking tin of bronze-coloured paint. Collis’s work references ideas of craft and labour through marks of everyday work, wear and tear.

Discover the public art collection for yourself with a new series of trail maps being created by the Centre for Research Collections. The first one is available now from the Visitor Centre and the Main Library Gallery.

To find out more visit [www.collections.ed.ac.uk/art](http://www.collections.ed.ac.uk/art) or email the Public Art Officer at [artcollection@ed.ac.uk](mailto:artcollection@ed.ac.uk)
In a festive inter-faith lunch mates, Baha’i Belief Contact Irene Cotugno and Honorary Humanist Chaplain Tim Maguire meet for some good food and conversation in Leo’s at the Dovecot Studios.

Lunch mates

Tim

What were your expectations before meeting your lunch mate?
When I last saw Irene, she was positively glowing with happiness, so I was really looking forward to finding out why!

What did you talk about?
Love, food and Italy, because they all go together: spirituality, faith, philosophy, and our shared belief that there are more things that unite humanity than divide it.

Can you tell us a little about your lunch mate’s role?
Irene is an adviser in the University’s Human Resources department, but I know her through her involvement in the Chaplaincy Centre, where she is the Baha’i Belief Contact. Like mine, her role is honorary, but she sees it as an important acknowledgement of her community and her faith.

Are there any synergies between your roles?
Baha’i and Humanism are both comparatively little-known systems of belief. Our involvement with Chaplaincy allows us to contribute to the greater good of the University and wider society.

Can you think of how you might work together in future?
We’d both like to encourage our student groups to get to know each other, and find issues of common interest through dialogue and debate.

What’s the best thing about your lunch mate’s role?
Irene feels inspired to be part of the Chaplaincy team, because it encourages mutual understanding and dialogue between people who come from very different backgrounds, but who share a sense of common purpose.

How does your lunch mate commute into work?
Irene has the classic University commute: a 10-minute walk across the Meadows – or eight minutes if it’s a cold day!

What’s your lunch mate’s favourite lunch place?
She’s a big fan of the thali buffet at the Kalpna vegetarian restaurant on St Patrick’s Square.

Irene

What were your expectations before meeting your lunch mate?
Having an inspiring and enjoyable conversation with Tim and learning a bit more about him.

What did you talk about?
Quite a range of topics! Food, nature, spirituality, life choices, what we love about the University Chaplaincy, and more...

Can you tell us a little about your lunch mate’s role?
Tim conducts humanist weddings and funerals, supporting people at very special times of change in a way that is personal and meaningful to them. Tim is also the Honorary Humanist Chaplain at the University and he feels that this role is an important recognition of the Humanist philosophy.

Are there any synergies between your roles?
Both Tim and I are involved in the work of the Chaplaincy. It’s great to be part of a diverse team sharing common purposes and aspirations.

Can you think of how you might work together in future?
We’d both like to encourage our student groups to get to know each other, and find issues of common interest through dialogue and debate.

What’s the best thing about your lunch mate’s role?
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What’s your lunch mate’s favourite lunch place?
She’s a big fan of the thali buffet at the Kalpna vegetarian restaurant on St Patrick’s Square.

Did you find you had any hobbies or outside-of-work ventures in common?
As well as cooking, we both love walking: Irene finds a real sense of spiritual comfort when she’s at one with nature.

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

The University’s new state-of-the-art gym at Easter Bush opened in October. The gym has 42 stations and a variety of studio equipment, and is open Monday to Friday from 7am to 7pm.

Membership is available for University staff and for Roslin Innovation Centre Tenants on a monthly, six-monthly or yearly basis. Student membership for 2017/18 is available on a fixed term basis, either to 27 May or to 31 August.

Staff and students who are already members of the Pleasance Sports Complex and Gym can also enjoy access to the new facility at no extra cost.

www.ed.ac.uk/sport-exercise/easter-bush-gym

Women are Varsity victors again

Both the men’s and women’s rugby teams claimed landmark victories over St Andrews at the Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish Varsity Matches in September in front of a crowd of 10,000.

The Varsity fixtures signal the start of a new season for both clubs following a successful period in 2016/17, particularly for the women, who boast several internationals in their ranks. They won their Varsity match 53–5 to cap a season in which they also won their British Universities and Colleges Sport league, championship and sevens titles. Meanwhile, the men overturned a losing streak of four Varsity matches to claim a 31–7 win over their St Andrews rivals.

Fifty years of Firbush

October marked 50 years since Firbush, on Loch Tay near Killin in the Highlands, opened its doors and invited visitors to experience its vast array of outdoor pursuits and beautiful scenery.

Half a century on, Firbush continues to delight those who visit, often year after year, with a mix of activities, including sailing, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, reading parties, family activity holidays and corporate team-building courses.

Throughout 2017/18 we will be sharing special memories of Firbush to celebrate its 50 years of education, community and adventure. We know the centre has a special place in the hearts of staff across the University, and we would love to hear your Firbush stories. Perhaps you visited on a family holiday, on a University retreat or as an outdoor sports enthusiast.

Please email your recollections to us at firbush.memories@ed.ac.uk

New head of women’s hockey

Sam Judge has been appointed as Head of Performance Hockey (Women) at the newly refurbished hockey pitch at Peffermill Playing Fields.

Sam has played hockey in three Commonwealth Games and her distinguished career also includes 199 senior Scotland caps. Her appointment represents an expansion of her previous role with the hockey team and will see her run more individual sessions with athletes. She will also have greater involvement in weekly fixtures, hopefully leading on to even greater success for the club, which this year achieved the domestic treble (Scottish League, Scottish Cup and European Play-offs) and won its Eurohockey Championships group.
competition & giveaway

Spot the difference and win four tickets to see Cinderella at the Kings Theatre on Friday 19 January at 7pm.

The fairy godmother of all pantomimes is back again this Christmas, spreading wandfuls of magical festive cheer at the Kings Theatre, Edinburgh.

For your chance to win four tickets to see Cinderella on Friday 19 January, circle the five differences in the two images below, and send your entry to us by 5pm on Thursday 4 January.

You can post your entry to Bulletin Competition, Communications and Marketing, 5 Forrest Hill, EH1 2EG or email it to bulletin@ed.ac.uk

The draw will be made and the winner notified on Friday 5 January.

Last issue’s competition was won by Paola Cazzini in the vet school.

Cinderella runs at the Kings Theatre until Sunday 21 January 2018.

To buy tickets or find out more, visit edtheatres.com
exhibition

Talbot Rice Gallery

John Akomfrah
Vertigo Sea

Until 27 January 2018