New structural chemistry for Edinburgh

MSP’s, their fate in your hands / Students cash in the chips
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Imagine you are a young child. You move to a foreign land where people talk a strange, incomprehensible language. The sounds are meaningless, all merging into a confusing chorus of human noise. You are cut off, isolated in a lonely cell constructed out of fragments of failed communication. Sadly, many children living today do not have to imagine such a scenario or travel to a foreign land to experience it. For them, the frustration of not being able to communicate properly with the people around them is an everyday occurrence. They suffer from a condition known as Specific Language Impairment and it affects around one child in every 100.
Just as children with dyslexia have difficulty making sense of the printed letters on a page, children with SLI cannot properly absorb sounds and turn them into meaningful sentences. They are as intelligent as the children around them but their lack of basic comprehension can leave them looking slow and stupid, leading in many cases to underachievement in later life.

Now researchers at the University of Edinburgh are setting out on an important investigation to see if they can find the biological cause of this impairment and offer help to the countless thousands of children around the world who suffer from this condition. In the process they may also uncover some fascinating insights into one of the great unanswered questions of all time - how did humans develop language? What happened in the lost generations of time that gave us and no other species the ability to communicate verbally?

The study will involve working with around 200 Scottish families affected by SLI to see if the condition is caused by a basic genetic fault. Dr Jamal Nasir, the principal investigator in the study says he is confident that it will result in the identification of genes which have an important role in different aspects of speech and language. It may provide vital pointers to show whether or not humans possess a 'language gene'.

“What makes SLI particularly fascinating is that language is what really defines us as humans. It is what separates us from all other species. There has been this tremendous fascination with language, and language impairment will hopefully offer us some clues to the biological basis of language - such as how it evolved and what are the biological mechanisms behind it,” he says.

The three year project, which is being funded by a £162,000 grant from the Scottish Executive, is a collaboration between researchers at the University’s Molecular Medicine Centre and Dr Anne O’Hare, a paediatrician with a special interest in speech problems who runs the speech clinic at the Sick Children’s Hospital in Edinburgh. Dr O’Hare says most children with SLI are seen around the ages of two or three when parents become concerned about their failure to learn to speak. But why they should develop such a problem is still unclear. Dr O’Hare says some specialists believe it is linked to the auditory perception of sounds at a central level, while others believe it is related to the complex development of syntax and
What the Edinburgh study plans to do is to identify families where there is a known SLI problem. They will then be assessed using the latest techniques to come to a firm diagnosis and then blood samples will be taken to screen their genes for common factors.

A pilot study found 75 families with more than one family member affected, and the researchers believe it will be possible to meet their target of recruiting 200 families to the study.

“If we can find genes that underpin half, or quarter at the most, of the cause, we can begin to do early diagnosis,” says Professor Seckl. “That is some time down the track but that would be useful.” Children with SLI who are taught in specialist language units have been shown to benefit, and early identification would allow this form of expensive intervention to be targeted at those most likely to benefit. The work may also open up the prospect of using gene therapy to correct the basic fault. “What would probably be more useful is the ability to understand how it comes about,” said Professor Seckl. “If it suggests, for instance, that a particular protein is wrong, it might suggest new ways, completely unthought of ways of treating it. It may be a receptor for a particular brain chemical and maybe we can find a way of mimicking that.”

Dr O’Hare says that anything which helps to point more conclusively to the origins of the problem would be helpful to families. “It is very worrying and very frustrating for them not knowing why this happens.”

SLI can have a range of effects. In some people it gives rise to problems in acquiring written language. Families whose children suffer from SLI may yet prove grateful for that exchange over an everyday cup of coffee - a conception that has delighted Professor Seckl. He was instrumental in setting up the University's Molecular Medicine Centre at the Western General Hospital which now houses around 150 molecular geneticists and biologists who are all trying to take advantage of the huge explosion of genetic knowledge worldwide about the origins of human disease. The building was designed with a large coffee room so that scientists working on different projects could spend some time in each other's company and exchange ideas.

As is common with people everywhere they usually talk about the football or what they were doing at the weekend, says Professor Seckl, but more productive exchanges can take place. One of these occurred when he was talking to Dr Nasir. “Somehow or other our conversation came round to SLI. We recognised there was a real lack of a co-ordinated attempt to address what is a very serious, very upsetting and very difficult problem.” Contact was made with Dr O’Hare and a strategy was mapped out for answering some searching questions about the continuing mystery of how humans acquire language. Families whose children suffer from SLI need a tool to offer early intervention - and early identification of large numbers of children and families suffering from this problem.

It is an exciting project with enormous potential benefits, but it began over a simple cup of coffee - a conception that has delighted Professor Seckl. He was instrumental in setting up the University’s Molecular Medicine Centre at the Western General Hospital which now houses around 150 molecular geneticists and biologists who are all trying to take advantage of the huge explosion of genetic knowledge worldwide about the origins of human disease. The building was designed with a large coffee room so that scientists working on different projects could spend some time in each other's company and exchange ideas.
Where small animals come first

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS The Princess Royal, Patron of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, has officially opened the Dick Vet's new Hospital for Small Animals at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre.

The new hospital is the largest of its kind in the UK with eight consulting rooms, four specialist treatment rooms, three general wards, and four operating theatres. It also provides a dedicated ward for exotic animals and a wildlife ward, which makes it unique among hospitals run by the UK’s six veterinary schools. A total of £3.9 million was raised externally to fund the building of the new hospital of which over £250,000 came from alumni. A sculpture ‘Sprinting Afghan Hound’ by Matthew Lane Sanderson sits outside the new hospital in memory of Olive Smith, VN, MBE, Head Nurse 1971 - 1996 who loved and cared for animals. The sculpture has been kindly donated by The Olive Smith Memorial Fund.

Virtual Edinburgh

AN IMAGINATIVE USE of powerful computers has enabled the streets of Edinburgh to come to life as a ’virtual’ city. Users of the system can simulate flying through the streets of Edinburgh’s Old Town, climbing high over the buildings and then swooping to street level. The system, called VISAGE, can also be used to see what the streets looked like years ago.

VISAGE has been made possible by the novel use of powerful computers in a collaborative effort involving the Edinburgh Old Town Renewal Trust (EOTRT) and EPCC, a technology transfer centre based at the University. Using a computer model of the Old Town commissioned by EOTRT, EPCC was able to generate animated sequences simulating a fly-past. The most obvious practical application of this comes in planning as the powerful computing technology at the heart of VISAGE allows assessment of the impact of new buildings on an existing built environment.

Funding for Firefly

FIREFLY YOUTH PROJECT, a Scottish charity working with children and young people in Bosnia, has been awarded nearly £157,000 by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Since its inception, Firefly has been run and supported almost entirely by fundraising carried out by students at the University. Its founder and director, Ellie Maxwell, and secretary, Andrew Fairlie, are both students at Edinburgh. In this first round of awards for UK based organisations working abroad, Firefly is the only Scottish charity to have received funding which will be used to carry out reconciliation work and encourage communication between young people from different ethnic groups in Bosnia. It will also cover the costs of setting up an office in the UK, and employing a member of staff to run the project. Local volunteers in Bosnia will also be trained in youth work, conflict resolution, project planning, budgeting and proposal writing, with the intention that when the funding comes to an end the project will be entirely staffed by individuals from the area who will ensure its survival in the longer term.
Pulling ahead
THE UNIVERSITY’S ROWING crew on their way to winning the Edinburgh-Glasgow Universities Boat Race 1999. A crew of eight top oarsmen, selected from the University’s Boat Club, competed over a 2.5km course from the straight at Rutherglen Bridge to the Monument on Glasgow Green.

The race which had been held annually since 1877 until 1996 was revived this year in the hope that it might attract sponsorship for next year. Despite being the underdogs on paper, Edinburgh won both the men’s and women’s races.

[See p39 for news about the alumni boat club]

The University in the CIt

IN JANUARY 2000, the University is mounting a major exhibition in the City Art Centre documenting the life of the University in the final year of the Millennium.

The photographic images by Tricia Mailey and Ross Gillespie will reflect a very broad range of activities, showing not only the public face of an organisation at the heart of Scotland’s capital city, but also aspects of life behind the scenes. It will be a combination of the commonplace and the exceptional. The exhibition follows the highly successful ‘Portraits of Excellence’ at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in which Tricia and Ross presented 26 portraits of academic staff of the University.

Finance Director scoops award

University Finance Director George Sutherland has been named as public sector Finance Director of the Year in the Bank of Scotland Awards.

George won praise for his work at the University after 20 years with Shell International and then a year as finance director of the World Bank $3 billion Construction Project in Pakistan. The Principal, Sir Stewart Sutherland, who had nominated him for the award, said, “When he moved from the private to the public sector in 1994, George brought the best and most relevant private sector experience to positive influence on University practice, strategy and policy.” George was presented with the Finance Director of the Year Award by Glasgow’s Lord Provost Pat Lally.
Lottery boost for sport in Scotland

A RECENT AWARD of £1.6 million from the Lottery Sports Fund to create a National Training and Competition Centre for Hockey - as part of a £3 million project to redevelop the University's 27 acre Peffermill playing fields - is good news for the University, Scottish Hockey and the development of sport in general in Scotland. Following the recent merger with Moray House Institute of Education, the University carries responsibility for the training of Scotland's physical education teachers, leisure managers and sports scientists.

The development at Peffermill - which also boasts an extensive range of grass pitches, tennis courts, and golf teaching and practice facilities - will involve a resurfacing of the existing artificial pitch for dedicated hockey use, a second state of the art artificial pitch, integral services, training track, additional high quality changing facilities, a grandstand and improved car parking and access arrangements, as well as University teaching accommodation. Funding, for new tennis courts, has also come from the Pollock Trustees.

Ford Gift of Support to Management School

LORD TROTMAN, former Chairman and Chief Executive of Ford Motor Company, has presented a US $500,000 Ford Gift of Support to the University's Management School.

The donation will be used to support the establishment of The Management Information and Research Access Centre and Learning Environment (MIRACLE), which will act as an electronic hub for the School, and enhance and support the learning opportunities available to staff, students and members of the business community. It will link with learning centres in the University's Faculties of Science & Engineering, Medicine and Education, and to the major management databases world-wide through the Internet.

The gift will also support a Management School Master Class Programme by eminent visiting chief executives and senior managers.

IAN RANKIN
Alumnus of the Year

THE 1999 UNIVERSITY of Edinburgh/Royal Bank of Scotland Alumnus of the Year is Scottish crime writer Ian Rankin, the creator of Inspector John Rebus. The Award is made annually to a former student for services to the community, achievements in arts or sciences, in business, public or academic life.

Ian Rankin was born in 1960 in Cardenden, Fife, and graduated from the University of Edinburgh MA in English Language in 1982. His earliest writing successes were with poetry and the short story, one of which developed into his first novel The Flood, which was published by Polygon in 1986.

In 1988 Ian Rankin was elected a Hawthornden Fellow, and in 1992 he won the prestigious Chandler-Fulbright Award. The first of a number of literary prizes came in 1994 with the award of a Crime Writers Association Short Story Dagger, followed by another in 1996, culminating in 1997 with the CWA Gold Dagger Award for the best crime novel of the year for Black & Blue. In February 1999 Ian Rankin had 10 books in the top 20 Scottish bestsellers list; and in April he was elected Chairman of the Crime Writers Association. A television series based on the Inspector Rebus novels is due to be broadcast shortly.

Nomination forms for the 2000 Alumnus of the Year Award are available from Development & Alumni Services, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL, and should be returned no later than 31 March 2000.
Pascal Taskin was one of the finest harpsichord builders of all times. He was born sometime between 1723 and 1729 in Theux in the Province of Liege, now a part of Belgium. From Theux he came to work in Paris in the atelier of François-Étienne Blanchet II. After the death of Blanchet in April 1766, he became a journeyman (maitre) harpsichord builder, married Blanchet’s widow, and took over Blanchet’s workshop on the Rue de la Verrerie.

Jean Goermans was the founder of a family, of Flemish origin, of harpsichord and piano builders. He came to Paris and lived on the Rue de la Verrerie, the same street where Pascal Taskin was living and working for Blanchet.

The harpsichord was originally built in Paris by Jean Goermans in 1764 with the classic French disposition, but this was later altered by Pascal Taskin in 1783/84. At the time Taskin and Goermans were working in Paris, harpsichords by the Ruckers and Couchet, built over a century earlier in Antwerp, were being altered and updated to give them a contemporary compass and disposition. These altered harpsichords sold for prices 10 times or more than those of the locally-produced new instruments, and much counterfeiting and faking of Ruckers and Couchet instruments took place. In the case of the 1764 instrument, Taskin obliterated Goermans’ signature, altered Goermans’ rose to look like the rose of Couchet, stained the soundboard dark brown to try to make it look as old as a Couchet, and probably sold it off as a Couchet instrument at a great profit.

This stunningly beautiful instrument is made of a variety of materials, including oak, poplar, lime, cherry, beech, fir, pear, walnut and ebony. It is one of the most copied, most famous and finest surviving harpsichords in the world. (See p49 for details of how to view the Russell Collection)
WHICH SINGLE WORD sums up your University experience?
Eye-opening.

Did you enjoy being a student?
For the most part, yes. Obviously some months and years were better than others, but on the whole I loved being an undergrad.

What is your best memory of University?
Hearing, at the end of my first year, that I was placed at the top of the English Lit. class - up until then, I’d had all those classic “I’m a fraud and shouldn’t be here” anxieties. That was a very liberating moment. I also remember strolling around McCowan Hall after exams with someone I was totally in love with and thinking life couldn’t get much better.

What is your worst memory of University?
Being broke and living in an off-campus flat that I just hated.

If you could choose again, which subject would you study?
Medicine.

Did any member of staff have a lasting influence?
Dr Michael Phillips in the English Lit. department was a great friend and tutor: someone who added sophistication to his students’ literary tastes and to life in general. Dr Sarah Crichton was my first-year tutor and incredibly encouraging and supportive. I also had a tutor once, a man called Mr Womack, who was completing his PhD and gave me a timely reminder, after I’d superciliously trashed Wordsworth in an essay, “that the poet has thought much longer and harder about every word” than I had!

What advice would you give to new students?

If you could choose again, which subject would you study?

Do you think your University education prepared you for the competitive world of women’s magazine publishing?

What advice would you give to students interested in pursuing a career in magazine publishing/journalism?

Do you sometimes find it difficult to take the world of fashion and beauty seriously?

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In the autumn of 1894 Nicolaas J. Brümmer arrived in Edinburgh from the University of the Cape of Good Hope to further his studies at New College. These two letters were written from his lodgings in Edinburgh to his parents at home in Lady Grey.

Illustration: PAUL BLOW

38 Warrender Park Road
6 Nov. 1894

My dear parents,
Lady Grey

Dear Father and Mother,

I am very grateful to the Lord that, thus far, He has greatly blessed me with health and all that can contribute to my well-being. I also hope to hear from you all before long. I was very pleased to learn that all is well with you and you are both in good health. The last time I had word of you, Mama was suffering from a whitlow on a finger. I hope that this has now cleared up.

The professors here have already been very friendly towards me. I have already been asked to dinner by most of those with whom I have contact, invited to their ‘tea meetings’, and introduced to some of the private men’s graduate associations by Professor Seth and Professor Calderwood. They are very friendly, although the Scots are on the whole very shy and reserved. It is generally the case that the Scot is not the first to come forward, but if you behave as we Baptists behave - show friendship - then they are obliging and useful. One thing which often rubs me up the wrong way is that a Scot always makes out that he knows everything, even about a subject about which he simply knows nothing at all. I’ve heard Scots speak about things about which they know absolutely nothing in the world, and yet you would get the impression they could swear by what they say.

The country is beautiful even at this time. Much of it is reminiscent of the Cape. It has not been cold up to now but cold weather is expected. There hasn’t been any snow in Edinburgh, but there has been in London. This is, of course, not as bad as Lady Grey where it snows between Christmas and New Year.

Edinburgh is a large and beautiful city, magnificent buildings of all kinds, and an immense number of churches. There is a large church every couple of hundred yards. I prefer to leave to one side the question of whether the people are really so very good. There is an inconceivable amount to learn. I would like to take advantage of so many opportunities and privileges, but it is impossible because I cannot divide myself up. I expect to learn more here in six months than in three years at Stellenbosch.

I send greetings to all friends and acquaintances, especially Uncle Ben, Uncle Willem and so on.

With best wishes from your dear son - Nicolaas

.............

38 Warrender Park Road
22 Nov. 1894

Mr B. J. Brümmer,
Lady Grey

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to report to you that through the love of God I am in good health, and hope to have word of you again in the near future. It takes quite a long time to get a reply to letters from here.

The weather is by no means unpleasant; you soon get used to it and don’t notice any more when it’s bad. However, I should here add that the coalfire burns all day long in the study fireplace. This is common practice here, even when it is by no means cold. Coal is, in fact, so cheap that they can do that sort of thing.

One of the most unpleasant things you notice in the streets here are the coal-sellers. Great numbers of them run up and down the streets, one after the other, and make a painful noise to announce to those living on the fourth or fifth floors that there’s coal for sale in the streets. The poor creatures have a hard life hereabouts. They must work hard to have something worth selling, and then they have to trudge from house to house to sell it. Sometimes you see a cart-load of chairs, benches, tables and wickerwork etc going up and down the street, a couple of women carry one or two of the articles for sale, but although the work is very fine and they ask very little, the poor Scots women have a tremendous struggle to sell it. And so it is with a great many other things. One of the most striking things is to see the many fishwives arriving in the city every morning. They are all well-built, strong, healthy and often handsome people, but the loads of fish which these women carry in big baskets on their backs, hanging by a strap round their foreheads, is a painful sight for anyone not used to seeing women do such heavy work. And yet they are happy and healthy. They are better developed than those who don’t work.

Here there is much, very much which seems inhuman to someone from Africa, yet is quite normal here, but on the whole there is also much to learn here. It would be really good if our poor white people of Africa were left to their own devices here for a while, so they can learn to value the great privileges they enjoy and desist from their idleness.

My work is going very well indeed. Of course, I must make best use of my time and there is a great deal of everything to learn here. Greetings to everyone.

With best wishes, your dear son, Nicolaas

.............
I WAS LYING gravely ill in the flat of a Royal Air Force doctor in Addis Ababa when I first heard someone mention the name of Asrat Woldeyes, or simply Asrat as he was always known. Even in my semi-comatose state, the awe with which his name was used got through to me. “We must see if Asrat is free. He is the best,” a voice said. “Yes,” another chipped in, “Let’s get Jonathan over to the Black Lion.” Was this a pub, I wondered feebly, and who is Asrat?
Having appendicitis is no thrill wherever you are. Getting it in Ethiopia, seven hours’ drive from the nearest properly equipped hospital, makes it even less wise a choice of location. But the three other reporters I was with plied me with enough liquid to avoid total dehydration and we bumped back to the capital city, our famine assignment cast aside by my soft moans of pain.

Luckily for me, with several million people in dire need, Addis Ababa was unusually well-supplied with trained people from all over the world, ranging from nutritionists, paediatricians, and nurses to the RAF general practitioner who was there to help any aircrews if they fell ill while dropping grain to starving villagers in the drought-ridden highlands.

My appendix burst somewhere on the ghastly journey. While they kept me overnight on a drip to give me enough strength for an emergency operation, the discussion in the RAF doctor’s centre on where to send me. Although there was one hospital to which expats usually went for relatively minor problems, no-one doubted the Black Lion hospital, a multi-storeyed complex working at the Black Lion, turning it into a teaching hospital. Asrat came from the Amhara Christian élite which had long run Ethiopia and it was not surprising that he became the favourite doctor of the Emperor Haile Selassie. When the emperor and his entire political entourage were overthrown in 1974 by a group of left-leaning army officers, Asrat was re-confirmed in his university job. They even permitted him to go on treating the 82-year-old ex-monarch, by then a prisoner of conscience. It turned out that he had decided to take on a political post about a year after the new regime came in.

As was to be expected, the operation went well and as I recuperated in the days that followed I began to learn a little more about the man who had saved my life. He saw me regularly as he did his rounds, but was scrupulously fair in not devoting more time to his only foreign patient than he did to any other. He popped in briefly, inquired how I felt, and once satisfied that there were no problems, moved on.

According to Amnesty, his prison conditions were worse than those of any other detainee. His gaolers feared his powers of argument and refused to let him speak to other prisoners. He was not held in solitary confinement in the physical sense.

After returning to Britain and making a full recovery, I returned to Ethiopia three months later just as the famine was coming under control. I met Asrat briefly to thank him, but he seemed to think it was unnecessary. He had only been doing his duty. We had a drink and parted, and I was soon swept up in other crises, including a six-year stint as the Guardian’s Moscow correspondent. With the Soviet Union crumbling there was little time to think about Africa, although when I read in May 1991 that the Ethiopian regime had lost power to a guerrilla army led by Tigreans and Eritreans, the traditional rivals of the Amhara, I did briefly wonder what had happened to Asrat.

Imagine my surprise when I learnt two years ago that he had been arrested and was considered by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience. It turned out that he had decided to take on a political post about a year after the new regime came in. Worried by discrimination against his people, Asrat became chairman of the newly-formed All-Amhara People’s Organisation. This was enough for him to be sacked from his university post, along with 21 other professors.

Worse was to come. He was arrested in 1994 for holding a meeting at the AAPO office in Addis Ababa where he allegedly planned violent attacks against the state. Once in gaol he was tried on two other charges, and by the time I learnt of his difficulties he was facing a fourth set of charges. His supporters said Asrat was a victim of serial injustice, aimed at keeping him in prison for ever by adding new charges every time his previous sentence approached its end.

According to Amnesty, his prison conditions were worse than those of any other detainee. His gaolers feared his powers of argument and refused to let him speak to other prisoners. He was not held in solitary confinement in the physical sense. He slept on a mat on the floor in a barracks-type hall with scores of other detainees. But they were told not to communicate with him, or he with them.

Intrigued, I decided I would try to see Asrat, if only to do whatever I legally could to help him. No-one else in the world has ever so directly ‘saved my life’. The phrase sounds melodramatic. Was there anything I could do for him? The Ethiopian authorities were remarkably straightforward. I did not say I hoped to see Asrat until I had got a visa to enter the country, but they reacted favourably after the new British ambassador, Gordon Wetherell, put the case to the Security Minister soon after I arrived. Here was a British journalist with...
sentimental reasons for seeing Asrat. Why not let him? By an irony, Asrat had just been transferred from prison to hospital after complaining of high blood pressure and failing sight in his right eye after a possible mini-stroke. The hospital the regime chose for him was none other than the Black Lion.

It was odd to be climbing the stairs to the eighth floor of the hospital to visit the man who was once its chief surgeon, and who now was a prisoner in the institution he had helped to build up. Six soldiers in khaki uniforms guarded the corridor. Supremely confident, Asrat invited the security man from the ministry who was escorting me to stay in the room. As the conversation moved from polite pleasantries and a discussion of his health to political issues, I saw the strength of character which had put Asrat behind bars and kept his spirits up while there.

“The government allowed us to have an opinion, so I had an opinion. And then this. It happened like a bang. I never dreamt I would be in prison,” he said, when I asked him how his chairmanship of AAPO had landed him in gaol. One of the charges was that he had called for the regime’s violent overthrow. I read the speech before I left London and it was certainly a piece of super-patriotism, praising the way the Amhara had stood up to Italian invasion and suggesting the new Tigrean-dominated regime were foreign occupiers. But it was not a specific call to arms.

Asrat laughed, saying he had always been a man who tried to save life. He had never favoured political violence. He reminded me that the present government, his current gaolers, had been happy to rely on his word when it suited them. The trial of the Dergue, the former regime, was still rumbling on in Addis and Asrat had been summoned from prison to testify in the case against those who had murdered the emperor. They are charged with suffocating the old man with a pillow.

Asrat was one of the last independent people to see him alive. It was about a month before he died. “Then I was sent to the war front as a surgeon on the normal three-week tour of duty. When I got back, I was intending to give the emperor a check-up but my son was upset that I had been away. So I took a long weekend and arranged to go in on Wednesday. On the Tuesday evening I suddenly heard my name being mentioned on the radio. The Dergue were saying they had not been able to find his doctor and the emperor had died. It was as though I was somehow responsible.” When he had last seen him, the emperor was in good health in spite of his age. As Asrat put it, the talk about not being able to find his doctor “was clearly a pretext to cover up the fact he was murdered”.

Asrat’s main differences with the new regime, which he happily expounded even though the security man was still there, were two-fold. He did not like the way Eritrea had been allowed to become independent. (Shortly after I saw him, the two countries whose guerrilla armies had been close allies in the struggle against the Dergue, went to war themselves. Many see it as Africa’s most baffling and pointless war, fought by men who were once good friends and for the sake of a few miles of semi-desert.) Asrat also disliked Ethiopia’s new federal system, under which all political parties had to be associated with a region. “The All-Ahmar People’s Organisation was designed to combat tribalism but it had to be done under a specific name. We wanted brotherhood for all Ethiopians but it was difficult to stand on a general platform when everyone was put under a different tribe. That was the paradox,” he explained.

Asrat clearly relished talking, and for almost an hour he ranged over the political landscape and his place in it without any visible fear of the government which was keeping him under lock and key. I barely had to prompt him with questions. A week after my first visit I was permitted another conversation. He is only companion in his private cell-cum-ward was a short-wave radio on which he listened to the BBC World Service. I brought him some books but his eyesight was poor and he could hardly read.

Other visitors to Ethiopia began to ask to see him, including members of the European Parliament, like Glenys Kinnock. Diplomats from several Western embassies took turns in visiting. I wrote Asrat’s story up in a long piece for the Guardian Weekend magazine but for various internal reasons it was not published until November last year. By then pressure from Amnesty International and various lobby groups was growing. On Christmas Day I received a phone call, saying Asrat was being released on health grounds to get medical attention abroad. Within a few hours he would be on a plane to London.

It was wonderful to visit him on Boxing Day if only for half an hour. Once again he was in hospital, though this time a free man. A dozen people crowded into his room at the Wellington Hospital in north London, and others thronged the lobby. I could see he was indeed a celebrity in his community. Asrat was tired, ill and jet-lagged, but he remained his usual smiling and resilient self.

The next day he flew to the United States to visit relatives and go to the hospital in Texas where he had had bypass surgery many years earlier. All seemed to go well and he was sent home to a nephew in Pennsylvania. Only a few weeks later he complained of pains, was admitted to a local hospital, and died.

It was a sad and sudden end to a story which had seemed to be looking up. At least Asrat died in freedom, though not in the country to which he had given so much. I cannot say I repaid him by saving his life, but if my article helped in the campaign which gave him a few months of liberty, it is more than I expected.

Jonathan Steele is an Assistant Editor of The Guardian and has been a foreign correspondent for roughly thirty years. In 1985 he covered the great famine in Ethiopia.
The Edit Prize Letter Sixty Years On

GRANDCHILDREN AT university now - how time passes! I wonder if they - or anyone else - would be interested in what student life was like in the '30s? Well, here goes...

The academic part of a student's life doesn’t change all that much through the generations, but the style of social life has changed. (For better or worse - who are we to say?) The ‘English Lit’, more properly, Edinburgh University English Literature Society, met on Tuesday evenings in the Non Soc Hall, which is round about where the student shop is now. It was called the Non Soc Hall because the meetings there were of Non-Associated Societies - the Associated Societies being high-and-mighty affairs with a long history, such as the Dialectic, Philomathic and Diagnostic, which, in those days, certainly didn’t admit women.

There were various office-bearers in the English Lit apart from the normal President, Secretary etc. For example, as the evening wore on and the fire burnt low, it was necessary to put more coal on and the Chairman would call on the Honorary Chief Stoker to do so. The Honorary Chief Stoker would then call on the Honorary Assistant Chief Stoker, who would then call on the Honorary Deputy Chief Stoker, which functionary would carry out the duty of putting coal on the fire. Incidentally, when at the beginning of the session the various office-bearers were installed in their offices, the ceremony of appointing the various stokers was called an inundation. Where all this came from, I don’t know. It was before my time.

The rules of chairmanship were rigidly observed. If a motion was proposed, the Chairman would call for any counter-motion, or direct negative and so on. And, of course, there were the plays. I remember The Duchess of Malfi, King Lear, A Doll’s House and The Anatomist - all wonderful productions in the making of which everyone, cast and behind-the-scenes helpers, had a great time! I remember on a Saturday night after the last performance of one of the plays dancing an eightsome reel in the Meadows and being slightly worried in case the noise we made - there was very little noise by present-day standards! - would disturb the patients in the Infirmary.

And in the summer, we had picnics, at Dirleton perhaps, and winter and summer we walked over the Pentlands - an Edinburgh person doesn’t climb the Pentlands, he goes over them - occasionally on Saturdays during term, in the Christmas holidays, or on the Meal Monday holiday in February. A favourite walk was from Balerno - we got the bus to Balerno - over the hill by the Bore Stane to Carlops. At Carlops we had high tea. And - perhaps the best part of the whole outing - we would walk back to Edinburgh by the light of the setting sun or the rising moon according to the season. We would be strung out in a line across the road and we would be singing student songs. At Fairmilehead, we would get a tramcar home.

It was good to have been a student in the '30s. (Even if the next step was going to be Moray House, but that is another story!) But so far as we knew - which perhaps as things turned out wasn’t very far - the world was stable, exciting books were being written, we would have a job to go to. The future was ours.

Catherine Semeonoff, MA 1936
Edinburgh

Shedding Light on Bright

IN THE SUMMER of 1998 my wife and I spent a busy tourist week in Budapest, Hungary. Wanting some rest thereafter, we booked a few days at the holiday resort of Keszthely at the far western end of Lake Balaton, which serves as the ‘seaside’ resort for land-locked Hungary. There were few foreign tourists there, and these mostly from Austria.

At Keszthely we came across Festetics Castle, a kind of mini-Versailles, once the home of the Festetics family, but taken over by the state after World War Two. We entered the castle and went to the box-office. On the wall behind the box-office is a plaque dedicated to Richard Bright whom I at once recognised as an old alumnus.

The plaque reads, first in English and then in Magyar:
Richard Bright 1789-1858. To the memory of the English physician, scientist and traveller who was one of the pioneers in the accurate description of Lake Balaton. He lived in this building in 1815.

On returning home I looked up a Dictionary of National Biography and confirmed that Bright had, indeed, graduated MD at Edinburgh in 1812, ‘travelled on the continent, 1818-1820, and published accounts of travels, medical treatises and other writings’. Clearly the dictionary has the dates incomplete because he was in Hungary in 1815.

How did Bright reach this remote corner of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire? Was there some romantic tale? When in London last March I visited the Wellcome Institute Library and found a couple of autobiographies of Bright. No romance. In 1815 he was between jobs and decided to travel on the continent, visited Vienna, then full of statesmen arriving for the Congress designed to settle the affairs of Europe after the Napoleonic Wars, and then went on to Hungary. His autobiographies claim him as a famous Guy’s man. Well, he was - but an Edinburgh graduate first.

Dr Alfred Yarrow, MBChB 1947
Jerusalem
The Cosmopolitan Club

HOW MANY OF your readers were members of the Edinburgh University Cosmopolitan Club and does it still exist?

When I became a Chemistry student in 1943, our lecturer, Dr Ludlam, recommended his class to join the Cosmopolitan Club, an undergraduate social activity which, he said, had the largest membership of any Edinburgh University club. I joined.

The club was organised by Dr Ludlam’s son, a microbiology lecturer in the Medical School. He later became the Director of Public Health Laboratory Services in Leeds where I met him some 35 years after I joined the club. Meetings were held firstly at his home in Buccleuch Place and later in a University hall (Pollock Memorial Hall) somewhere adjacent to the then Bristo Street.

The Ludlams were members of the Society of Friends which, I would surmise, would be the reason for encouraging foreign students to meet and promulgate friendship between nations.

Meetings, on Sunday evenings, usually centred on a talk by a foreign student, but the essence of the evening was a ‘get together’, following which some of us would go for a fish and chip supper.

My cosmopolitan contribution was that I was born, brought up and lived two streets from Buccleuch Place!

Dr Philip Cowen, BSc 1946
Leeds

Give and Take

YOUR FEATURE ‘Virtuous Circles’ reminded me of a somewhat different circle almost 60 years ago.

I finished high school (North Berwick High School) in June 1940 in the weeks following Dunkirk, and like most of my classmates hoofed it straight to the local recruiting office.

I had, however, been admitted to Edinburgh University for October 1940, and awarded a bursary of fifty pounds per annum for four years. I, therefore, wrote an anxious letter to the awarding authority requesting that my bursary be placed on hold until I eventually entered the University at the end of the War.

Following several nail-biting weeks, I received a cautious reply stating that, while no guarantee could be given, I might rest assured that, circumstances permitting, my application for reactivation of my bursary would be seriously considered at the appropriate time.

When I eventually entered the University as a member of the huge ex-service class of 1946 (that class so stretched the University’s facilities that Professor Pares’ beginning history course was sometimes given in a local church: try taking notes in a church pew!) I was in receipt of a government grant that paid my fees and provided a living allowance of two hundred pounds less the fifty pounds of my bursary, which had in fact been held.

Errol Mauchlan, MA 1950
Berkeley, California

Down the Garden Path

I WOULD like to let you know what tremendous pleasure it gives me to receive the University of Edinburgh magazine. Of particular nostalgic interest for me was Antonia Swinson’s article ‘Another Time, Another Place’. The mention of George Square brought so many memories to the fore, as a very happy member of the ‘Medical Women Students’ inhabitants of Muir Hall, No 12 George Square.

As residents of the square, we each had a key to George Square Gardens. In those days there were still some private residences round the square. However, I think we were the only other key holders. Not even Cowan House, then across the square, enjoyed this privilege!

It is pleasing to hear that now all students can enjoy the gardens.

Sheila Harvey (née Spark), MBChB 1952
New South Wales

Write to Edit; win a prize

Edit wants to hear your views on the issues raised by contributors. The writer of the most distinctive letter to the next issue will win a prize for their efforts.

All letters are welcome and should be addressed to Anne McKelvie, Editor, Edit, Communications & Public Affairs, The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE.

Email: A.McKelvie@ed.ac.uk
Flora Watkins serves up the financial realities of life as a student.
ONE GIRL QUESTIONED IN A RECENT EUSA POLL RELAYED THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WORKING DURING TERM TIME: “THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A 2:1 AND A 2:2”.

The human species,” wrote Charles Lamb in 1823, “is composed of two distinct races, the men who borrow and the men who lend.” A little modification and Lamb’s aphorism lends itself aptly to a description of the post-Dearing student population, those who borrow and those who borrow even more.

For the overwhelming majority of students, debt has become a way of life. Whereas a certain degree of picturesque poverty has always been part of the university experience, today’s undergraduates face raising formidable sums in order to complete their education, and a plethora of organisations eager to facilitate their ascent into the red.

In fact, so inescapable is debt that it has become a matter of identity. Once, sizing a fellow student up was a simple question of accent/school/exam results. Now, knowledge of their preferred method of borrowing is necessary in order to come to an understanding. Whether the classic overdraft, alluring but fiendishly dangerous credit card, monolithic student loan or, increasingly, all three, the extent of one’s penury is the defining factor par excellence. Many a friendship has been forged in Freshers’ Week during discussions over which bank gives the most generous overdraft limit, and strengthened through the shared experience of having a bank card unceremoniously spat from the cashpoint.

It came as a surprise, then, to most Edinburgh students to read the recent mini spate of articles in the national and local press heralding Edinburgh as the university to go to for the Brideshead lifestyle. According to figures from the Higher Education Management Statistics Group, Edinburgh has become the most socially exclusive university in Scotland, coming fourth in the UK, with nearly 80 per cent of its students coming from middle or upper class families. The Sunday Times reported that this invasion of grandees had prompted Tatler magazine to appoint a social editor with sole responsibility to write about parties that take place in the city, whilst the Edinburgh Evening News described a New Town dinner party for fifteen students which included oysters and champagne on the menu. And in the Scotsman, estate agents related accounts of parents regularly spending in excess of £250,000 in the month - food, rent, travel etc. - was deducted from income, the result was a mere £9 to cover all other items. This means that they are forced to run up overdraft and credit card debt, or work during term time, in many cases missing vital lectures and classes.

But while stories like this produce good copy, the reality is usually far removed; indeed most students received this news with a mixture of bewilderment and amusement. Everyone is aware of this moneved elite - but that is exactly what they are, a tiny, unrepresentative clique. And such surveys ignore the very pointed fact that comfortably-off parents do not necessarily equal comfortably-off children. Traditionalists will no doubt be glad to hear that rather than sophisticated dining, cheap drinking in the Union remains the preferred entertainment.

However, the most insurmountable aspect of the new borrowing culture comes not from bank managers or credit ratings, but parental disapproval. Whilst we become old acquaintances with the letters ‘OD’ and grimly resign ourselves to paying off our loans at such a tender age is both ugly and frightening, but in the absence of a more attractive option is our only choice. And all hope is not necessarily lost - the present inquiry into student funding by the Scottish Parliament may yet produce a fairer deal. Personally, the arguments are more a matter of principle that education should be free to all than financial, as only students from the wealthiest background pay the full £1000. Rather, the key issue is seen as the abolition of the maintenance grant which will increase dramatically the debt incurred by students and, it is believed, prove a major barrier to university education. Studies have shown that the burden accrued during a four year course at a Scottish university will be around £13,880. Clearly, the prospect of this debt is a major disincentive to any prospective student - most graduates can expect a starting salary considerably less than this figure.

A study undertaken by Edinburgh University Students’ Association estimated that after basic student expenditure per month - food, rent, travel etc. - was deducted from income, the result was a mere £9 to cover all other items. This means that they are forced to either run up overdraft and credit card debt, or work during term time, in many cases missing vital lectures and classes. The Clearing House, which helps match up needy Edinburgh students with jobs, reports that the number of students on their books has been “going through the roof” since the implementation of the new system. One girl questioned in a recent EUSA poll relayed the negative effects of working during term time: “The difference between a 2:1 and a 2:2”.

Uncertainty about the current job market means that students are more concerned than ever about their degree results - the old chestnut: ‘What do you say to an Arts graduate? Fries with that please,’ has never rung so true. Term time work is becoming less viable for fear of jeopardising final grades. So what is the answer to the Catch-22 situation that most students find themselves in? Perhaps the sagest piece of advice I have been given is to remember that if we let fear of borrowing money prevent us from doing something, no-one would achieve very much in life. Accepting debts at such a tender age is both ugly and frightening, but in the absence of a more attractive option is our only choice. And all hope is not necessarily lost - the present inquiry into student funding by the Scottish Parliament may yet produce a fairer deal. Personally, the question of loan repayments isn’t depriving me of too much sleep - after all, I don’t have to start paying it back until I’m earning around the national average wage, approximately £16,000. And as an Arts graduate, on what I’ll be earning serving up burgers, I’d say that’s a long way off!
The foundation stone of the 'new' Chemistry Building on the West Mains Farm site was laid on 6 July 1920 by His Majesty King George V, after whom the University's future science and engineering departments, the King's Buildings, became known. In October 1922 the first classes were held in the new building which was officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales on 3 December 1924. It was named after Joseph Black, who was appointed fourth Professor of Chemistry at the University in 1766 and the bicentenary of whose death falls on 6 December 1999. The total cost of the building, fittings and equipment was £182,000.

The Joseph Black Building has now been extended at a cost of just over £9 million to provide state-of-the-art facilities for Chemistry which has become one of the largest departments in the University, with top ratings in both research and teaching assessments. The three storey structure, which houses laboratory space and research facilities for some 70 scientists, has been designed by Campbell & Arnott Ltd on a modular basis for maximum flexibility.

photography
TRICIA MALLEY + ROSS GILLESPIE
Visual Resources
University of Edinburgh
novel structure

The Joseph Black Building
The Scottish electorate won’t be exclaiming ‘hear, hear’ when MSPs get to their feet. It’s more likely they’ll be shouting ‘listen, listen’. Professor Alice Brown looks at how the Scots have taken such great parliamentary strides in such a short time, and wonders whether, in Holyrood, they’re going to get the ‘listening Parliament’ they’re hoping for.

The new politicians - 129 in total - took their seats on 12 May and went on to elect their Presiding Officer (and Deputies) and the First Minister. The Executive of 22 Ministers and Deputy Ministers was then formed and the new government published its programme for the first year with eight bills covering Land Reform, Abolition of the Feudal System of Land Tenure, National Parks, Education, Transport, Local Government (code of conduct), Incapable Adults, and Financial Procedures and Auditing. The Parliament was officially opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999 - an event which the Presiding Officer, Sir David Steel, described as “the most significant political achievement in Scotland for nearly 300 years”. Thus a major constitutional change has occurred in a relatively short space of time.

The new Parliament is funded through the existing system of allocation (providing a budget of around £15bn) and will have the power to legislate over all the areas of policy not reserved to Westminster including Health, Education (from pre-5 education to Higher Education), Training, Local Government, Social Work, Housing, Economic Development, Transport, Law...
and Home Affairs, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Sport and the Arts, and Research and Statistics. In other words, a broad range of areas that affect people’s daily lives. The Westminster Parliament will retain legislative power in respect of the constitution of the UK, Foreign Policy (including relations with Europe), Defence, Macroeconomic Policy, Social Security and Employment Legislation, as well as the regulation of certain professions and aspects of media and culture. However, the Scottish Parliament will be able to debate and form a view on all reserved matters.

Campaigners for constitutional reform in Scotland pressed not only for a new legislature with taxation powers, but for a Parliament that would address the so-called ‘democratic deficit’ in Scotland. They campaigned for a Parliament that was different from the Westminster model and one which would genuinely listen to and encourage the involvement of people and draw on the wide range of available expertise. Expectations are, therefore, high among groups in Scottish civil society anticipating a more open and participative political system and new roles in the policy-making and pre-legislative process.

There is evidence from the Scottish Election Study and the Referendum Study carried out by myself and my colleagues David McCrone, Lindsay Paterson and Paula Surridge that people in Scotland expect to have a greater say in how Scotland is governed and that the new Parliament will have a positive impact on social and welfare policies. Indeed a vision of a different type of politics and a new political system and culture helped fuel much of the campaign for a Scottish Parliament. This vision was articulated through the publications of the Scottish Constitutional Convention and was subsequently reflected in the government’s White Paper on Devolution, in the Scotland Act and in the work of the Consultative Steering Group.

At its first meeting, the Consultative Steering Group agreed four key principles which were to inform its deliberations and guide its work, namely Power Sharing, Accountability, Access and Participation, and Equal Opportunities. The Group then embarked on a wide-ranging consultation exercise inviting written submissions from 800 organisations, holding workshops aimed at gathering views from rural and urban communities, arranging public forum meetings across Scotland, and organising focus group sessions in different parts of Scotland to obtain the views of young people. The results of the consultation process demonstrated wide agreement with the general principles and a broad consensus of view on how the new Parliament should run its affairs. In addition, Expert Panels were set up to advise on Procedures and Standing Orders, Financial Issues, Information and Communications Technology, and the Media, as well as a working group on the Code of Conduct for MSPs. Research into the working methods of national and regional parliaments in the European Union and elsewhere was also commissioned so that lessons could be learned from the experience of other countries. Academics at the University of Edinburgh were involved as members of the Consultative Steering Group and its Expert Panels, and were commissioned to carry out some of the research involved.

In making its recommendations to the then Secretary of State, the Group attempted to embody its four key principles in the standing orders and procedures of the Parliament.

Firstly, Power Sharing: the Scottish Parliament should embody and reflect the sharing of power between the people of Scotland, the legislators and the Scottish Executive. Under the first principle of sharing of power it proposed inclusive and transparent arrangements for the programming of parliamentary business; a role for parliamentary committees in initiating a well as scrutinising and amending legislation, having standing as well as select functions and in being located and able to meet in different parts of Scotland; a role for civic society and the public in participating in the pre-legislative process and policy development; and an opportunity for petitions on matters of public concern.

Secondly, Accountability: the Scottish Executive should be accountable to the Scottish Parliament, and the Parliament and Executive should be accountable to the people of Scotland. It is anticipated that the principle of accountability will be met through a code of conduct for MSPs; a strong role for committees in scrutinising the Executive; and rigorous financial systems and audit arrangements.

Thirdly, Access and Participation: the Scottish Parliament should be accessible, open, responsive and develop procedures which make possible a participative approach to the development, consideration and scrutiny of policy and legislation. In order to encourage the operation of the principle of wider access and participation, it is proposed to provide different channels for consultation and a more open and accessible committee system; to encourage the formation of a Civic Forum and forums representing the views of others such as the business community and young people; to establish expert panels or advisory groups to support the work of committees and to consider the co-option of non-MSPs as non-voting members of committees; to provide a well resourced information system; to use IT and information media to enhance communication; and to engage in public and civic education programmes.

Fourthly, Equal Opportunities: the Scottish Parliament in its operation and its appointments should recognise the need to promote equal opportunities for all. It is recommended that the fourth principle of equal opportunities should be realised by mainstreaming equal opportunities into the work of the Parliament supported by an Equal Opportunities Committee and an Equality Unit; to agree a working pattern for the Parliament that is ‘family friendly’ and arrangements that are equally
The realisation of the vision of a new democratic system and political culture, and of a listening Parliament, will not occur automatically and will require an ongoing process of political pressure and change.

...
out to Lunch

As a meal, lunch just isn’t what it used to be. No longer a leisurely repast, it’s now more varied and more rapidly consumed than ever before. Lunch certainly means different things to different customers of some of the many new bars and restaurants in and around the University.
nine Chapterhouse: haddock fillet with mustard and mussels baked in filo pastry.
ten Iguana: iced coffee, waiting on roast beef and horseradish sandwich.
eleven Phenecia: tuna and olive salad and garlic bread.
twelve Susie's Wholefood Diner: stir fried veg, carrot and rice salad.
thirteen Elephant House: strawberry tart.

fourteen Archies: ham and mustard mayo and can of coke.
fifteen California Coffee Co.: caffe latte with cinnamon.
sixteen Maxies: cream of mushroom soup.

seventeen Buffalo Grill: quarter pound Blue Mountain burger.
eighteen Nicolsons: antipasto misto with capers, anchovies and garlic chips.
nineteen Maxies: fried brie.

photography by TRICIA MALLEY and ROSS GILLESPIE. With thanks to all those involved.

out to Lunch
Scholarships

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS of the University have responded magnificently to the University’s efforts to raise significant funding for scholarships. Concern for the welfare of students and for maintaining Edinburgh’s ability to attract able students has inspired many of you to give generously through the telephone and mailed appeals. One donor commented, “I shall always be grateful to the Bursary donors who provided the Bursaries and Scholarships which enabled me to attend the University of Edinburgh and obtain degrees which launched me on a professional career which would otherwise have been inaccessible. It was therefore a great pleasure to learn that 50 bursaries had been awarded this year, partly funded by the Alumni Fund.” Another graduate has anonymously pledged £20,000 per annum to help expand the scope of the scholarship scheme to include students from schools and colleges in the whole of the U.K. Exact details of the extended programme will be announced soon.

Direct Lines

THE THIRD TELEPHONE campaign took place successfully in the spring, bringing the total raised in this way so far to £650,000. These donations are primarily channelled to the Alumni Fund, which supports the scholarship scheme, small research projects, and other priorities. The University would like to thank all those who agreed to speak to the student callers. Many who could not make a donation nonetheless expressed their interest in the University’s work and wished us well. The next campaign will take place in October and November.

Legacies Fund Research

A £384,000 LEGACY from Dr Scott L. Forrest has enabled the University to establish the Development Trust Research Fund and helped the Neurological Sciences’ Brain Scanner Appeal reach its target. The Development Trust Research Fund will provide grants to researchers in Arts and Humanities. It is often difficult for work in this area to attract external funding in the way that scientific and other disciplines can. The Fund will grow with the addition of more legacies and lifetime gifts and grants from the Alumni Fund. It is hoped that it will become a significant source of support across the whole University, making a major contribution to keeping Edinburgh at the forefront of academic endeavour.

Other legacies received this year include:
- £153,000 for the Alumni Fund from the estate of Dr Robert Crawford
- £51,000 from Miss Mary McLean to benefit Social Work
- £31,000 from Mrs Dorothy Collins for the Dick Vet Animal Health Fund

For some people, pledging a legacy can be a way of demonstrating a level of commitment to the University’s work which they would be unable to make during their lifetime. For others, it is the culmination of a lifetime’s giving.

A legacy of whatever size is a valuable gift to the University and it is simple and easy to arrange. For a copy of the University’s guide to leaving a legacy to Edinburgh, telephone the Legacy Manager, Frances Shepherd on 0131 650 2240 or tick the box on the Information Please coupon.

Team Spirit

PRESENT AND PAST members of the Edinburgh University Boat Club have had some spectacular success raising money to help fund equipment and participation in competitions. A new club - Alexandra Friends of EUBC - has been set up to maintain links between current students, ex-members, and all those with an interest in the well-being and development of the Boat Club. Donations and pledges from Alexandra members now stand at over £6,000. EUBC also raised nearly £3,000 for the club through a sponsored indoor Atlantic row and was granted a £2,500 Small Project Grant from the Alumni Fund. (See p9 for news of the Club’s success in the Edinburgh/Glasgow Race).

Heart to Heart

A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION by the British Heart Foundation has been made towards achieving the University’s plans for a new medical research building. The award of £5.1 million, to a team led by cardiologist, Professor Keith Fox (pictured), is to go towards housing a new research institute. The new institute will bring together some of the UK’s most promising medical research programmes under one roof. The critical mass of the latest techniques and equipment that will become available and the scope for interaction between leading scientists and clinicians - focused on major public health issues, including heart disease - will have profound benefits to the whole community. The University will shortly be launching a major fundraising campaign to provide additional funds towards this project.
Would you like to celebrate the millennium in the Festival City?
YOU are invited to ALUMNI 2000, our alumni millennium party. Bring your family and friends and join in the fun.

What does ALUMNI 2000 have to offer?
First and foremost the opportunity to join together in celebrating what the University of Edinburgh is today, in looking to the future and in enjoying this finest of all cities. Then there’s jazz at Pollock Halls, wine in George Square, lunchtime music in St Cecilia’s Hall, Bucks Fizz in the Talbot Rice Gallery, visits to the Royal Observatory and Dynamic Earth, exhibitions, presentations, tours, reunions, and much, much more.

Will I meet any of my contemporaries?
ALUMNI 2000 is for everyone, from the most recent alumni to those who graduated 50 years ago or more. Whether you come alone or with family or friends there will be plenty to do and lots of people to share memories with.

Join us for wine and canapés in George Square on Friday evening to meet old friends and make some new ones, or reserve a table at the special Saturday evening Gala Dinner for a memorable celebration. If you would like to contact old flatmates, get together with former fellow members of one of the University’s many student clubs or organise a major class reunion, we can help.

If you are celebrating a special anniversary of your graduation do get in touch with us. We will help you to build your reunion programme around ALUMNI 2000 and also help you to trace your fellow graduates.

Where can I stay?
We’ve reserved a limited number of rooms at Pollock Halls, all en-suite and all with full Scottish breakfast included in the special price.

I want to be there, what do I do next?
Tick the box on the Information Please form to register your interest and to receive a programme and booking form.

Graduates living in the UK should already have received a letter of invitation from the Principal with a brochure and reservation form. We are delighted to include a special pack for our non-UK alumni with this edition of EDiT.

The hotline address is
Tel +44 (0)131 650 2240 Fax +44 (0)131 650 2239
Email: Development@ed.ac.uk
Development & Alumni Services, University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL
2000 Reunion Programme

1950 BSc (Chemistry)
50th Anniversary Reunion
1 June 2000, Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Dr Ted Mitchell, 26 Junction Road, Norton, Stockton-On-Tees TS20 1PL

1950 MB ChB
20 - 22 June 2000, Peebles Hydro
CONTACT: Dr Ethna Drem, 16 Craigentinney Crescent, Edinburgh

Cowan House Residents
1955 - 60
Alumni who were resident in Cowan House during the period 1955 - 60 are invited to a reunion, early/mid July 2000, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Mr Anthony Benfield, 24 Gascoigne Avenue, Barwic in Elmet, Leeds LS15 4LW (surnames A - L) or Mr Peter Fale, The Gardens, Bryanston, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0PS (surnames M - Z)

1958 BSc (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
23 - 24 June 2000, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Dr J D Eric Carson, Cobblers Corner, 20 W Hithill Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6JY. Tel: 01562 752459 T hose who left the group in 1957 after Chemistry III would also be most welcome.

1960 BSc (Chemistry & Chemical Engineering)
9 - 11 August 2000, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Lt Colonel Jack G Wishart, Milton House, 20 Whitehill Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6JJ. Tel: 01562 752459 T hose who left the group in 1957 after Chemistry III would also be most welcome.

1960 MB ChB
1 - 3 September 2000, Peebles Hydro
CONTACT: Dr T H Thomas M Kennedy, Four Winds, 7 Hillside Crescent, Langholm, Dumfriesshire DG13 0EE Email: tklangholm@aol.com

1975 BSc (Civil Engineering)
Date & venue tbc
CONTACT: Mr Norrie Pillans, 6 Townsend Crescent, Kirkcaldy KY1 1DN

1975 MB ChB Silver Reunion
22 - 25 June 2000, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Royal Mile, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Dr Elaine B McIvor, Meldon House, 103 Berrinick Drive, Troon, Ayrshire KA10 6HZ Tel: 01292 314339 Fax: 01563 577975 Email: michielem@ayshire.scot.nhs.uk

1980 MBChB
November 2000, Peebles Hydro
CONTACT: Dr Carolyn Thompson, 11 Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LS Email: dyson@zetnet.co.uk

1985 BSc (Chemistry)
May 2000, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Miss Angela Valentie, 7 Panmure Terrace, Dundee D DD3 6HP

1990 BEng (Chemical Engineering)
July/August 2000, Edinburgh
CONTACT: Dr John Currie, 1 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HA

The General Council
Sherry Reception & Lunch
Saturday 12 February 2000
All members of the General Council, their families and friends are welcome to attend the Reception and Lunch which follow the biannual meeting of The General Council of the University of Edinburgh. For further information and tickets, please contact M r s Jean Gibson, T he General Council Office, U niversity of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL. Tel: 0131 650 2152 Email: Jean.Gibson@ed.ac.uk

Seventh Annual SRC Founder's Dinner
Saturday 22 January 2000
This ever popular event, comprising a reception and dinner in Old College, is open to all members of the SRC. For further information, please contact: Tom Hopkins, V ice President Representation, Edinburgh U niversity Students' Association, 5/2 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH 8 9A L.

Janet Buckley Memorial Prize
Fund Concert
Saturday 30 October 1999, Reid Concert Hall, 7.45pm. An evening of music performed by Peter Evans (piano) and other professional musicians who are former students of the Faculty of Music. The programme will include Faure's Piano Quartet no.1 and songs by Faure, Wolff and D uparc.

Tartan Day in Washington DC
Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland, Dr Lloyd J Ogilvie, C haplain to the Senate and New College alumni, and Mrs Mary Jane Ogilvie celebrate Tartan Day in the USA and the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, at a reception in the British Embassy in Washington DC for alumni and guests of the University. The event, on 6th April, was jointly hosted by the Principal, accompanied by Lady Sutherland, and the British Minister at the Embassy, Stephen Wright.

Over 170 people, many wearing tartan, were piped in to the Rotunda at the Embassy and enjoyed an evening of greeting old friends and meeting new ones, chatting over past times in Edinburgh and hearing about the University of today and the future.

University Rugby Football Club
Pictured above - reunion of members from as long ago as 1945.

Forestry Class of 1959
40th anniversary reunion

Classics Department Reunion 1986-1991
1920s

Mr Laurence C Greig BSc 1923 Aged 97. Failing sight restricts intellectual interests, but still enthusiastic about new developments within the University and the world generally.

Mr John M Douglas BSc 1925. After seven weeks in hospital, feeling age (94) for the first time.

Dr Eva G John MB ChB 1926 Celebrated 60th birthday on 3rd January 1999.

Mrs Jean A Landon née Halliday MA 1928 Aged 93. Very much retired.

Dr Ernest L Godfrey MB ChB 1929 Recently celebrated 50 years’ practice as a qualified homopath. Continues, in spite of now failing health, to work as he approaches the 70th anniversary of his graduation.

1930s

Mr John G Reith MA 1932 Now over 90 years of age but remains a member of the Sea View Yacht Club and the Beembridge Sailing Club, both in the Isle of Wight.

Dr Mary J Noble BSc 1933 PhD 1935 is 88 years of age. Busy working on Beatrix Potter’s mycology in co-operation with Professor Watling.

Mr Geoffrey D Rouse OBE BSc 1933 Retired as Honorary Treasurer for TROBI (Tree Register of the British Isles). Grandson, Tim Hayles, now studying Forestry at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Frank L Rawson BSc 1934 MB ChB 1938 Was given several text books in the fields of ergonomics and occupational hygiene during the last 10 years.

Dr Malcolm Whaites MB ChB 1934 Happily and completely retired, living in a retirement resort on the sunshine coast 100 km north of Brisbane, Australia. Three step-children and their families are only a short distance away.

Mrs Mabel F Adam MA 1944. For last 8 years, has written and presented the ‘Book Matters’ programme on Radio Tay AMA. As part of the University of the Third Age, chairs a creative writing group and a book discussion club.

Professor Asher S Kaufman BSc 1945 BSc 1948 Hon Research Fellow at the Research Institute, College of Judea and Samaria. Professor Emeritus Frederick W Cogswell

Mrs Mary Tavy Archer née Morton BSc 1946. Lives quietly, largely doing church work and helping other aged folks all since her marriage to Mr. Robert I Guthrie BSc 1946 Advocate of the Scots Bar. Retired Parliamentary Lawyer, Westminster.

Dr Frank L Rawson MB ChB 1946 Retired from General Practice, December 1998.

Dr Boris H Ruebner MB ChB 1946 MD 1956. Still working part-time at Medical Centre in Sacramento.

Mr James D Addly MA 1947 Now retired.

Miss M H D Maclean MA 1938 LLB 1949. Octogenarians lead quiet lives!


Mr David L Handley BSc 1952 Retirement.

Miss Dorothy H Woodward MA 1947 Now a retired teacher.


Mr Charles R Jackson MA 1954. Retired in 1997 as Edinburgh’s longest serving primary headteacher. More time for jazz bazz playing and travel.

1940s


Dr H M Weaver MB ChB 1940. Retired to Killin in March 1979. Helped local practice occasionally for five years. Has done no medical work since - now approaching 81.

Dr James A Deuchars MB ChB 1943 Plaque for 50 years service to St Andrew’s Ambulance Association.

Dr Arthur M Plant MB ChB 1941 Retired after working as ship’s surgeon and then GP.

Mr Frank S Dorward OBE BSc 1949 Following wife’s death, has moved to a smaller home in Aytoun, Berwickshire.

Mr Alan J Lees MA 1949 LLB 1951. Publication: Church Anthems. Compositions: Concerto for Recorder and Strings; Intro and Allegro for Oboe and Cello.

Dr John McQuaid PhD 1949 in ‘Who’s Who in the World’ for a second time!

Rev Ainslie Walton MA 1949 Now retired. Honorary Teaching Fellow in Practical Theology, University of Aberdeen.

1950s

Dr Robert Edmond MB ChB 1950 Still in active medical practice.

Mrs Marietta Jenkins née Neustein MA 1950. Continues to do voluntary work, tutoring with Adult Basic Education Unit, teaching retarded adults to read and write and doing hospital visiting.

Dr Alan F Phillips MB ChB 1950 Was given the third Citizenship Award of the Hamilton Mundialization Committee for 1998.

Dr Ian R Reid MB ChB 1950. Medical Practitioner. Still alive and kicking!

Dr Thomas F Sandeman MB ChB 1950 MD 1963. Retired radiation oncologist. Enjoying wine, wife and music, plus golf, writing and discovering the joys of astronomy. The internet is opening doors and connecting old friends.

Dr Robert H Spier Jr PhD 1950. Gave a lecture to a caucus of 52 members of the United Liberal Democratic Party in the National Assembly Building in Seoul, Korea. Also lectured at the University and at the Korea American Friendship Society.

Mrs Irene Gardner née Johnstone MA 1951. Nearly 70 years old. Interests include reading, language, piano, international relations, Spanish and the Spanish people with special reference to Andalucia.

Professor Alastair W Thomson MA 1953. Retired from university teaching at Chuo University in March 1999.


Mr John D Hundleby MA 1954 Stanley Knowles distinguished visiting professor, Brandon University, Manitoba, Canada, 1999.

Mrs Rosemary E Polley MA 1953 Retired and still living outside Leominster, Herefordshire.

Mrs Fiona J Atiken BSc 1954 MSC 1961 Resigned from WRVS and from providing fortnightly clinic for local GP. Following husband’s retirement as Parish Minister in Clackmannan in November 1996, moved to Saline and looking forward to pursuing a variety of interests in the coming years.

Professor Emeritus Michael P Banton PhD 1953. DSc 1964, Served as Chairman of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 1996 - 98.

Dr Robin B Dean BSc 1954 Retired. Now living in Port Owen, South Africa, enjoying boating, walking, reading and music.

Mr David L Handley BSc 1952 Retirement.

1960s

Rev Dr John S Berkeley MA 1960 BSc 1963. Started and then headed up Sifundzani Primary School, Mbabane, Swaziland. In 1996 started up Sifundzani High School with 160 students. Now running this school too.

Dr Esam E Galal PhD 1954 Founder and President, Egypt Pharmacological Society. Former Chairman, UN Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development.


Mr Charles R Jackson MA 1954. Retired in 1997 as Edinburgh’s longest serving primary headteacher. More time for jazz bazz playing and travel.


Mrs Margaret G Myhill née Seareson MA 1955. Retired from teaching hearing impaired children. 5 years ago. Still busy as Hon Secretary of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Deaf Children’s Society. Eldest of three daughters marrying in 1999.

Dr Ian M Houston MB ChB 1955. Retired Air Commodore. Now pursuing interests in...
travel, wildlife, photography and the local community. Dr June Paterson-Brown CBE DL née Garden MB ChB 1955 Appointed Lord Lieutenant of Roxburgh and Lauderdale in September 1999. Professor James R Taylor MB ChB 1955 PhD 1974 Shifting emphasis from work to golf. Aims to write a book on applied anatomy and pathology of human spine once fully retired next year. MIr Ian D Bruce MA 1956 Retired 1978. Obtained MSc from Curtin University, Western Australia, in 1991, and PhD in 1996 in neural networks and evolutionary computation. Rev Professor Robert E Fulop PhD 1956 Retiring summer 1999 from position as Professor of Church History and Missiology, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City. Dr E Harriet Harvey Wood OBE MA 1956 PhD 1972 Has just completed William Dunbar: Selected Poems, published shortly. Dr Iain M Mackay MB ChB 1956 Retired at the end of 1993. Thoroughly enjoying a life of leisure - only regret is that retirement income no longer permits motor racing. Dr Graham R Powell BSc 1956 BSc 1957 Was honoured in October 1999 when conferred with the title of Professor Emeritus in Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick. Mr Michael Stone BSc 1956 Since retirement in 1995, has had contacts with Alberta Government, involving inspecting lay drug outlets and assisting with the launch of the Alberta Quality Pork Programme. Rev Dr Donald J Watters BSc 1957 Together with wife Mary Ann Lundy, has retired to live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dr Michael G Newton BDS 1957 Still working as dentist. Dr Nicholas Petroukalis BEd 1957 MEd 1966 Gives occasional lectures at the University of Athens, writes magazine articles and contains duties of General Secretary of the Greek Educational Society. Mr William Walker BSc 1957 BEd 1958 Forbes R Walker (MSc 1961) graduated PhD in Soil Science at North Carolina State University, December 1986, and appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Mrs Anne P Mathieson née Henderson MA 1958 Honorary Secretary of the Society of Friends of the Kirk of the Greyfriars. Rev Dr David F Summers PhD 1958 Celebrating 50th anniversary of ordination and of marriage in January 1999. Miss M A J Swinley MA 1958 Retired at the British Council several years ago but still involved in the campaign to save the Pyramid, the then later as Chairman of the Scottish Arts Lobby and more recently as Chairman of the Scottish Society. Mrs Kathleen E Cigno née Hudson MA 1960 Still combines an academic post with working in social services. Past Chair (1995- 98) of Cognitive Behavioural Social Work Group. Rev Dr Vernon G Elgin PhD 1960 Interim Pastor in Bali, Indonesia, April - July 1999. Mrs Sheila M Farnsworth née Gemmell MA 1960 Moved to Norfolk 1998 when husband took early retirement. Presently involved in tourist accommodation by letting cottage annexe to holidaymakers. Dr Christopher P Mayers MB ChB 1960 Retired from general practice in 1993 and from part-time hospital work in 1996. Now working part-time as leader of mountain walks in Snowdonia, Pyrenees and the Alps. Also sailing and Chairman of Marine Association. Professor D R Fraser Taylor MA 1960, PhD 1966 Has been awarded an honorary degree by the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Del Peru, one of the most prestigious universities in Latin America, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of modern cartography in the universities and to the world over the past 3 decades. Is the author of more than 20 books and is currently Professor of Geography, Environmental Studies and International Affairs at Carleton University, Ottawa. Mrs Margaret A Chirgwin née Young MA 1960 Retired and living on Martha’s Vineyard. President of the Scottish Society. Busy with cooking and theatrical work and with two grandchildren. Marie E W Evans née Westmont BMus 1960 Retired in April 1991 after 13 years as a software worker and 16 years as a laser. Would like to hear from classmates. Dr Elizabeth M Higgins MB ChB 1961 Retired from full-time radiology practice in USA in January 1998. Dr Michael R Higgins BSc 1960, MB ChB 1964 Retired from full-time nephrology practice in USA in 1999. Dr Alexander Macfarlane BSc 1967 Retired in January 1999 to Peebles after career with the British Geological Survey overseas in Africa, the South Pacific and Indonesia. Dr John Mackay MB ChB 1961 Has worked in private practice in Hong Kong since 1963. Partially retired to climb mountains and play golf. Married to Judith Longstaff (MB ChB 1962). Dr John Paterson-Nicholls BSc 1962 Although married to Alison House. “Life as a mature student is wonderful, but most of the practice pianos are ghastly; trying to fundraise through concerts, but it is a long haul!” Dr Sonia A Wolfe-Coote née Fitch BSc 1962 Delighted to be collaborating with alma mater in a Welcome Trust funded research project on in utero programming of disease. Associate Professor Jason Abbott-Chapman née Abbott MA 1963 PhD 1969 Director of the Youth Education Studies Centre at University of Tasmania (not Director of University of Tasmania, as printed in last issue of ED,alumni - apologies, Editor). Dr Robert Collins MA 1960, BSc 1966 Retired due to ill health but still very active. Mr C Frederick Y Lawson BSc 1965 Stood for election for SRC, Edinburgh Council, Westminster, Holyrood and Brussels - only success so far has been SRC in 1960! Is this a record? Rev Dr France H Mitchell PhD 1963 Lecturing on Biblical Hermeneutics of August Tholuck in October 1999 at University of Halle, Germany. Convening the Tholuck lectures at the American Academy of Religion meeting in Boston in November. Mrs Helen Gillespie née Douglas BSc 1964, MUM of three, grandmother of five. Doing supply teaching after 25 years of teaching. Rev Dr Michael R Higgins BSc 1961, PhD 1972 Works in New York, Living in carved out work, mostly in Brussels, managing the central unit of the Osteoporosis network under contract to the European Commission. Mrs Susan Harvey née Bone MA 1961 President of Scottish Instructor and Orienting Federation since 1992. Professor Alexander M Johnston BVM&S 1966 Chair of Veterinary Public Health. Member of Government and EU Scientific Veterinary Committee. Elected Honorary Fellow of Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons 1997. Mrs Jacqueline M King née Addison BSc 1960 Having taught for years and raised four daughters scattered from Australia to the UK, has now retired to the garden and a stress- free existence. Dr Helen M Kingston née Rennie MB ChB 1961 Enjoyed 30th anniversary reunion at Peebles Hydro in August 1991. Still a rural GP in New Zealand, and chairs the New Zealand Rural GP Network. Dr George A Gray MB ChB 1948 Acts as a locum GP in Wiltshire and occasionally on Wednesdays, in Oxford, where the highlight of the week’s activities is a visit to Papay each Wednesday.
World service

Professor Ian S Fraser BSc 1964, MB ChB 1967, MD 1970 Holds a Personal Chair in Reproductive Medicine at the University of Sydney and is this year President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Both parents are Edinburgh graduates, and both grandfathers graduated in Edinburgh, one at the University and one in Surgeons Hall like his father before him.


Rev Dr Lyle L VanderWerff PhD 1968 Recently retired after over thirty years of teaching biblical studies and mission at Northwestern College of Iowa.

Professor Duncan S Ferguson PhD 1969 Chief Executive, Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, Louisville, USA.

Mr Allan G MacGregor BSc 1969 Now running own management consultancy business (MacGregor Consulting). Also a senior referees assessor for the Rugby Football Union, and has a daughter at Edinburgh reading modern languages.

Dr Christopher F Ross MSc 1969 Continuing mid-life career change from being a clinical psychologist to teaching and researching into the psychology of religion at Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada.

Dr Shelton S Short III PhD 1969 Reappointed as chairman of United Nations Danube Commission in Vienna, Austria. The one-day annual event will take place on 24th October 1999.

Miss Lisbeth M Thoms BSc 1966 In December 1998 reappointed to both Ancien Montfords Board for Scotland and Advisory Panel on Treasure Trove.


1970s

Mr John Allan BSc 1970 Retired from teaching April 1997. Employed as part-time sales assistant with James Thin bookshop, South Bridge, Edinburgh.

The Hon Lord Dawson LLB 1970 Appointed Senator of the Court of Justice (High Court Judge) May 1955.

Mr Hugh J Elder LLB 1970 Head of Litigation at Gordon Dadds, a small central London firm of solicitors, and President of the London Solicitors Litigation Association.

Dr Alastair I Fraser PhD 1970 Currently working in Indonesia. Programme Co-ordinator for large development project covering sustainable management of natural tropical forest for production and conservation, research, training and policy.


Mr Norman H Rose LLB 1970 Member, Simpler Trade Procedures Board, December 1998.

Dr Richard B Thompkins BSc 1970 MB ChB 1973 Completed a law degree in Adelaide in 1986 and worked for Legal Aid to Aboriginal Australians. Then returned to medicine and became a psychiatrist. Married with 3 daughters.

Mr James P West BSc 1970 Had an interesting career in Industrial Process Control IT but became bored and disillusioned with modern IT developments. Now redundant and possibly winding down.

MRS Jennifer M Baker BSc 1971 DN 1987 Moving back to the Highlands after nearly 30 years in the south, with 3 children and business, but without husband.


Dr Christopher J Donegan BSc 1971 PhD 1978 Recently established a new consultancy called The Change Navigators, aimed at helping organisations create pathways and navigate their way through change.


Miss Joanna A Switalska MA 1971 Currently Executive Funding Manager, London Borough of Merton, working on urban regeneration projects.


Mr Michael J Scott BSc 1974 Conservative PSC for Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley. Retiring after 6 years as Hill Farming Convener of Scottish National Farmers Union.

Rev Robert J Ramsay LLB 1973 Inducted as Member of Invergowrie Parish Church, December 1997.


Mr Alastair F Des Moulins BSc 1974 Has been living and working in Calga, Canada for the last 10 years. Still climbing mountains and ski touring. Works together with wife in contract computer consultancy.


Mr William J Scott BSc 1974 Conservative PSCSP for Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley. Retiring after 6 years as Hill Farming Convener of Scottish National Farmers Union.

Rev Dr George L Pattison MA BD 1977 New publications: The End of Theology and the Task of Thinking about God (SCM 1996); Poor Paris! (Berlin 1996); Anxious Angels (Macmillan 1999).

Dr Eugene M Meehan LLB 1975 Has been elected President of the Canadian Bar Association for 1999 - 2000. Remains a litigation lawyer at Lang Michener in Ottawa.


Dr George Brins BSc 1976 Currently Project Engineer for Kongsberg, and infrared spectrophotograph about to be delivered to the W M Keck Observatory in Hawaii (the world’s largest telescope).


Ms Alison C Gimmingham BSc 1976 After 4½ years as Director of Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire, has now moved back to England to work with the National Trust.

Mr K A Ihata BA 1976 Together with wife, has been running own school in Tokyo teaching English for more than 20 years. Employs teachers on a part-time basis and would be glad to hear from Edinburgh students of Japanese doing their year abroad.

Dr Carla Luzzani nŽe Spadavecchia PhD 1976 Appointed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to teach Italian at St Andrews University for three years.

Mr Umesh B Malia MPh 1976 Currently engaged in technical advisory roles and consultancy activities for a number of semi-governmental agencies and NGOs. Actively associated with the Health Association as a consultant for the ‘Healthy cities’ programme, and with a non-profit group working to fulfil the housing needs of low-income people in Nepal.

Dr Louis Appleye BSc 1977 MB ChB 1986 Bringing out the report of the National Confidential Enquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness, a Government-funded project in these areas, aiming to advise the DHA on the safety of mental health services nationally.

Ms Sally E Buckingham nŽe Watts BA 1977 MA 1980 Runs a small cattle farm in NE Victoria, Australia, and has built a solar powered mud brick house. Married with three children.

Ms Catherine M Crawford nŽe McIntyre BSc 1977 Has had her own business for 3 years making organic lotions, gels and creams as well as giving holistic aromatherapy treatments. Has almost finished a Nutritional Medicine course.

Dr Mary Kontzias PhD 1977 Was elected a member of the council of the European Astronomical Society in summer 1997 and is Editor of the Society’s newsletter.

Rev Gordon Oliver BD 1977 Minister of St Andrew’s Church of Scotland, working also as a missionary partner with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Portugal.

Professor Graham V Vimpani PhD 1977 Trinity King Lecturer; New Zealand Plunket Society; Invercargill March 1999.


Rev Andrew A Downie BSc 1978 Recently appointed the full-time Prison Chaplain in Scotland, employed by the first private prison in Scotland.

Dr Willy D Engineer PhD 1978 Currently an Examiner for IETLS conducted by the British Council, Mumbai, India.

Mr Kerr Fulton-Peebles MA 1978 Now Principal of King William’s College, Castletown, Isle of Man.

Dr K Gordon Price PhD 1978 Appointed Director of the School of Social Work, King’s College,
Mrs Sophie R Armstrong née Thornton MA 1986 Baby Ruart was born August 1998.

Dr Stroma Beattie née Lauder MB ChB 1986 Has been working in South Korea doing medicine/missionary work. Now moving to Singapore to work as medical adviser for an international, interdenominational mission organisation.

Mr Neil E. Bresteller MB ChB 1986 Appointed consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Dr Kathryn M. Dearing PhD 1985 Kran Anselm Dearing born October 1997.

Mrs Barbara A. Ebrahim née Walker MA 1986 Now in Cape Town trying to juggle the demands of two children, Ruby (11 years) and Yusuf (8 years) and developing graphic design skills. Also supporting son’s development since he has Asperger’s Syndrome, which is only just being recognised in South Africa.

Mr Edward G. Ernestsson MBA 1986 Civil Engineer (land development) in consultancy in Florida.


Dr Kathryn J. Hoff née Dale MB ChB 1986 Had identical twin girls in October 1998. Dr Hoff is the third woman from this class to have twins - can any other year group beat this?

Dr Jane R. Jenkinson MB ChB 1986 Married with two children aged 5 and 2. Working as a part-time GP and involved in South Tyneside Primary Care Group Board.

Mr Andrew H. Logan BSc 1986. General Manager, Paragon Ensemble Scotland.

Mr Kazi K Alam MSc 1987 Recently passed Seed Grader examination from Agriculture Canada. Wife, Selina, is continuing with studies to pass professional examinations in agriculture, and three children are all promising students.

Mr William J. Bailey BSc 1987 Working as a Geophysicist for PGS Tensor on the most advanced seismic data collection vessel in the world.

Miss E. S. C. Denison née Creasey MA 1988 Continuing to paint as well as looking after one year old daughter.
World service

Mr Kevin A Gray BSc 1987 After 8 years as an Officer in the Royal Navy, left to train as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen in Bristol. Now working as an Accountant in Bath. Married to Rebecca with one daughter, Emily.

Mr Andrew W Kent MB ChB 1987 Major, Royal Army Medical Corps. Higher Surgical Trainee (Orthopaedics) at Princess Margaret Rose Hospital.

Miss Ntomblazhe Mpolu MSc 1987 Completed PhD in Canada in 1992. Has worked in Botswana and is now running own consultancy firm in Zimbabwe.

Dr Elaine S Van Ravestijn-Scott née Scott BSc 1987 Married Oscar Van Ravestijn from Hoggerzand, the Netherlands, in August 1993.

Mr William D Catterall IVA 1988 Recently completed a doctorate in History at the University of Minnesota. Currently seeking an academic position. Hopes to pursue interest in Scots migration in future work.

Dr Esther Sira PhD 1987 Received the prestigious Bharat Excellence Award and Gold Medal from the Friendship Forum of India in October 1986. Published text book on nursing process, 1996. President, Nurses Christian Fellowship, India, and member of standing committee representing Central Asia.


Dr James C Saffery MSc 1990 Recently returned to the UK after nearly three years in Sydney. Met and married Therese in Balmain, March 1998.

Mrs Anita Sandhu née Sohal BDS 1990 Achieved Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) in 1997.


Dr Yumiko Arai MD 1991 Has been working as head of the research unit at Japan’s only National Institute of Longevity Sciences since 1998. Recently won a 3 year research grant (30 million yen) on carers’ burdens.

Mr Anand Desai LLM 1991 Set up a law firm in India focusing on all areas of law, with offices in Bombay and Delhi.


Mr Sarah Grove née Parkinson MA 1991 Life changed considerably in August 1998: got married and changed job from training to marketing.

Mr Lyna A Hendry BSc 1991 Obtained PhD in Fluid Engineering from Cranfield University; graduated June 1998.

Mr Martin C Hill BSc 1991 Settling down in Britain for a few years, working in the space industry currently in satellite control software. Bought a house and a motorbike. Rallying cars this year and practising for the Paris-Dakar rally next year.

Mrs Alexia Ioannidou MSc 1991 Has been working as an English teacher in a state secondary school in Ioannina, Greece, since 1997.

Mrs Verity Orrell-Jones BEng 1991 is leading mine-clearing by the Royal Engineers in Kosovo.

Mr David J Peden MSc 1991 Together with Mr David Gillespie (BCom 1992), has set up Open Fairways Scotland, which offers reduced green fees at over one hundred golf courses throughout Scotland. Open Fairways has been in existence in Ireland for over four years, originally the brainchild of Mr Jonathan B Packham (BSc 1999) who was Peden’s team-mate in the University Men’s Golf team.

Mr Anil K Sahgal MBA 1991 Appointed Vice President at Dundee Investment Management & Research, investment counsel to Dundee Mutual Funds, a part of the Dundee Bancorp Group, Canada.

Mr Colin F Tevanan MSc 1991 Just appointed Head of Drama at Queen’s University, Belfast. New plays opening at the Lyric, Belfast, the Gate, London, and being workshoped at the National Theatre Studio, London.


Mr Admassu A Berhanu MSc 1992 Now working as head of Kombo Icha Regional Veterinary Laboratory.

Mrs Abberdine E Browne MSc 1992 After 20 years as Nursing Tutor and Principal of the School of Nursing in St Vincent and the Grenadines, was promoted in December 1997 to head of profession as Chief Nursing Officer.

Mr Philip M Findlay BCom 1992 Still playing for Spartans FC first team. Qualified CIMA, ACIBS, MCIBS. Married and living in Revoulston.

Dr Shawn E Flatt LLM 1992 Has been the Financial Attorney Attached to the US Embassy in Mexico City since January 1998.

Dr Julian G Goy PhD 1992 After living in Australia and Belgium, now living and working in Sweden as a Product Manager for Optima Batteries AB. Enjoying the extensive travelling the job entails.

Dr Heid J Goodship MSc 1992 Due to be awarded PhD in July 1999 by University of Dundee. Thesis title: “The application of geotechnical information systems in crime pattern analysis - old wine in new bottles?”


Mr Ian McIntyre MBA 1992 Three children and house renovation project to support. Manages a group of researchers attempting to improve the quality of the humble squashy liquid bottle and other polyethylene items - far more interesting than it might appear!


Rev Ernest K Mampanda MTH 1992 After serving as a secondary school chaplain and attending advanced studies in leadership, founded the Christian Alliance for Relief and Development, which is still in its infancy.

Mrs Laura J Shaw MA 1992 Has been working for BBC World Service since May 1998. Attended Party Conferences and involved in lots of events for MPs, Peers, etc, including regional briefings on areas such as Indonesia, Kosovo, Russia, Nigeria and Iran.


Rev Rashid M Chaudhury MTH 1993 Principal of Baring Union Christian College, Batala, Panjab, India.

Mr David M Findlay BSc 1993 Moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.

Mrs Catriona Gambles née Riddler MA 1993 Married to Colin Gambles, July 1998, and moved to Devon.

Mr Christopher S Gathercole MSc 1993 Married in April 1998.

Mr Rory J Gilchrist MA 1993 Returning to Edinburgh to study law after two years teaching English and Current Affairs to students in Chile. Since graduating in 1993, has also worked in the USA, Australia, Italy and Poland.

Dr A Mark Godfrey LLB 1993 Trainee solicitor with Simpson and Marswick since 1997. Recently completed PhD thesis on the early history of the Court of Session in the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Mr Colin R Graham MA 1993 Using Chinese in legal matters as teaching in Chinese Law. Together with Ben Walker (MA 1993) was involved in a joint ribbon cutting ceremony on behalf of respective firms in Northern China.


Mr John S May MBA 1993 Appointed Managing Director of Cardflour Ltd in January 1999.


Mr Iain Vella Bing 1993 Since Bing 1993 has been living in Sydney for past 5 years. Now working with Fujitsu as an ASIC designer. Also working on a sun tan!

Mr Andrew T Beardon Bing 1994 Working for Anglican War and living in Cambridge.

Mrs Nancy A Coppock MSc 1994 Together
Dr Sarah J French

BSc 1994. Graduated from Cambridge University as a PhD completed at Wolfson College and the MRC Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair, March 1998.

Mr Christopher Gravel


Mr Russell C Hall

BVM&S 1994. After graduation, set sail for Central America via South America and the Caribbean, one of three on a 40 foot sailing yacht which covered nearly 10,000 nautical miles in 10 months. About to embark on a 2 year adventure, by the Tibetan foothills, cycling in Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces, then trekking in Patagonia and the Andes.

Mr David G Harvey

BScm 1994. Currently a full-time student in Theology at Queens University, Belfast. Elder and youth leader in a small church.

Miss Susan L Haysom

BSc 1994 Currently studying for an expedition organisation. Career.

Mr David J Hopkins

PhD 1994. Just secured research funding which could extend to six years. Is now settled on a small farm. Increasingly involved in both farming and rugby development as sidelines to research career.

Dr Felicity A Keating


Mr Percy R Lallemang

MSc 1994. Besides teaching English to Luxembourgers at secondary school level, is involved in several educational projects like film-making and radio. Also organises yearly trips for students to various UK destinations.

Dr Katharina K Leue


Miss Rebecca K Lewis


Miss Anna S Marshall

BSc 1994. Member of Volcanology and Geohazards Research Group at Lancaster University. Completing doctorate which has included fieldwork in Kenya and a trip to the erupting Piton de la Fournaise volcano in Reunion.

Miss Kirsty J Morgan

MA (OS) 1994. Will be leaving post as teacher of geography at Haileybury College in summer 1999 to work for an expedition organisation.

Mr Anur A Ramaduthy

MSc 1994. Working as Director (Environment) in a mining company, exporting ornamental granite stones, manganese and iron ore. Looking for various UK destinations.

MRS Jennifer A Rees-Davies

World service


Dr Sharad Ratnarajah BSc 1996 Currently Medical Adviser, reproductive medicine, with Organon Pharmaceuticals, Malaysia and Singapore. Pursuing an MBA with Edinburgh Business School.


Ms Kate A Simpson BSc 1996 Got MSc in conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources from University of Birmingham, 1997 - 1998.

Mr Kieron M Steen BSc 1996 Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and currently half way through training as a Sea Harrier pilot. Too far away from Edinburgh and needs to get back!

Ms Kathryn A Tingey BSc 1996 Returned home in July 1998 after nearly three years in Edinburgh. Currently temping at local environmental agency office while looking for permanent work.

Mr Mark W Wilson BSc 1996 Coming to the financial end of a PhD in bird mating systems at the University of Sheffield. Absolutely no idea what he will do next!

Mr Joseph Bazaale MSc 1997 Has successfully utilised seed technology knowledge gained from Edinburgh in daily operations in the seed industry in Uganda.

Mr Robert P Chansky MSc 1997 Now working on a tactical war simulation for the US Defense Department.

Mr Donald B Colbour MPhil 1997 Minister, Wilshia Boulevard Christian Church, Los Angeles.

Mrs Laura R Dalgarno-Platt née Dalgarno MA 1997 Married in August 1996 to fellow postgraduate. Went on to do one year PGCE at Moray House.

Ms Sophie A Davidson MA 1997 Carries out the media relations for IBM’s PC company in the European headquarters. The job continues to be challenging.

Mr Matthew C Dobbs BVM&S 1997 Recently finished vetting in Dorset to take up position at University of Sydney Vet School Large Animal Practice. (Real purpose of trip - surfing!)

Rev Alistair P Donald BD 1997 Now the Church of Scotland minister at New Deer in Aberdeenshire.


Mr George Mark Emerson BSc 1997 Planning to return to university to read veterinary medicine, possibly at the Dick Vet.

Ms Tara T Evans BEng 1997 Studied for an MSc in Environmental Engineering at University of Newcastle.

Mr Ian Garman PhD 1997 Currently working in the seed industry in Uganda.

Ms Lisa A Hodgson BSc 1997 Recently finished MSc in Developmental Genetics at Aberdeen University. Remaining at Aberdeen to complete PhD.

Ms Louise J Hogg BSc 1997 Now working for chemistry department at University of Edinburgh.

Dr Andrew N Hone PhD 1997 Married Jemma Curry in April 1998 and daughter Laura May was born in Rome in August. Now in Adelaide with a fellowship from the Australian Research Council.

Ms Joanna Lenthall MSc 1997 Has recently become self-employed running an environmental literature reviewing service.

Mr Ian M Mailland Hume MA 1997 Whilst researching a PhD on Scottish identity and tartan in North America, has also been lecturing both in the US and Scotland, primarily to American groups, on Scottish History and Culture.

Mr Urmar I Ibrahim MSc 1997 Now back in Nigeria teaching animal welfare and related courses at the veterinary faculty of the University of Maiduguri.

Mr Jose A Masse-Marquez MSc 1997 Currently working as a research assistant at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in a joint project with the University of Rochester. Also lecturing an undergraduate course in formal languages.

Mr Gabor Pluhar MTh 1997 Reformed minister in a parish in Fuzeseggarmat, Hungary.

Mrs Luminita Rollé MSc 1997 Book, Heroes in the Psyche of Europe, written with collaboration with the Celtic Department at Edinburgh University, will be published this year in English by Hades Editions, Geneva.

Ms Roberta J Musson MSc 1997 Currently following a training programme designed to lead to project management in the field of IT testing.

Mr Alasdair I Reid BSc 1997 PhD student at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge. Investigating the role of Fox genes during development.

Mrs Pauline A Robinson née Atklen BSc 1997 Has remarried since leaving University. Degree helped secure present position with Architectural Heritage Society.

Mr Richard C Scammell BCom 1997 Now works in Winchester in international sales, frequently travelling to Latin America. Has begun clubman’s supersports motor racing.

Ms Laura K Stafford MA 1997 Gained MSc at Napier in European Marketing and Languages. Currently working for ITI Paints (Dulux) as marketing assistant.

Mr Ceil P Stagg MSc 1997 Will shortly finish work on a 3D realtime strategy game, Machines, due out this year.

Mr Craig R Sutherland BSc 1997 Has been working for past year with Denholm Ship Management in Glasgow, developing bespoke software projects.

Mr Matthew R Catto MSc 1997 Recently finished MSc in Developmental Genetics at Aberdeen University. Remaining at Aberdeen to complete PhD.

Mr Christopher F Catto BSc 1998 Due to complete a PGCE at Warwick University in the summer. Starting first teaching position at a comprehensive school in Nuneaton in September.

Mr Stephen P Sutherland BSc 1998 Now working with Mobil Oil and BP Oil within Europe.

Ms Jemma Curry in April 1998 and daughter Laura May was born in Rome in August. Now in Adelaide with a fellowship from the Australian Research Council.

Mr Ian M Mailland Hume MA 1997 Whilst researching a PhD on Scottish identity and tartan in North America, has also been lecturing both in the US and Scotland, primarily to American groups, on Scottish History and Culture.

Mr Urmar I Ibrahim MSc 1997 Now back in Nigeria teaching animal welfare and related courses at the veterinary faculty of the University of Maiduguri.

Mr Jose A Masse-Marquez MSc 1997 Currently working as a research assistant at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in a joint project with the University of Rochester. Also lecturing an undergraduate course in formal languages.

Mr Gabor Pluhar MTh 1997 Reformed minister in a parish in Fuzeseggarmat, Hungary.

Mrs Luminita Rollé MSc 1997 Book, Heroes in the Psyche of Europe, written with collaboration with the Celtic Department at Edinburgh University, will be published this year in English by Hades Editions, Geneva.

Ms Roberta J Musson MSc 1997 Currently following a training programme designed to lead to project management in the field of IT testing.

Mr Alasdair I Reid BSc 1997 PhD student at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge. Investigating the role of Fox genes during development.

Mrs Pauline A Robinson née Atklen BSc 1997 Has remarried since leaving University. Degree helped secure present position with Architectural Heritage Society.

Mr Richard C Scammell BCom 1997 Now works in Winchester in international sales, frequently travelling to Latin America. Has begun clubman’s supersports motor racing.

Ms Laura K Stafford MA 1997 Gained MSc at Napier in European Marketing and Languages. Currently working for ITI Paints (Dulux) as marketing assistant.

Mr Ceil P Stagg MSc 1997 Will shortly finish work on a 3D realtime strategy game, Machines, due out this year.

Mr Craig R Sutherland BSc 1997 Has been working for past year with Denholm Ship Management in Glasgow, developing bespoke software projects.

Mr Matthew R Catto MSc 1997 Recently finished MSc in Developmental Genetics at Aberdeen University. Remaining at Aberdeen to complete PhD.

Mr Christopher F Catto BSc 1998 Due to complete a PGCE at Warwick University in the summer. Starting first teaching position at a comprehensive school in Nuneaton in September.

Mr Stephen P Sutherland BSc 1998 Now working with Mobil Oil and BP Oil within Europe.

Please give us news to be included in future editions of EDiT. We also welcome photographs - please send an SAE if you wish them returned.

Title & Full Name

Degree & Subject

Address

Tel Fax Email

Post Code

Do you know of a fellow graduate who has recently moved to a new address or who is not getting University publications? If so, please give us their details.

Title & Full Name

Degree & Subject

Address

Tel Fax Email

Post Code

WORLD SERVICE

Please give us news to be included in future editions of EDiT. We also welcome photographs - please send an SAE if you wish them returned.

Title & Full Name

Maiden Name (if married):

Year of Graduation: Degree & Subject:

Address:

Tel Fax Email

Post Code

Thank you to everyone who sent in news for publication. We are also pleased to forward letters to people listed here. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors.
The ring sizer works like a belt. Cut it out and make a slit where shown. Push the end through the slit to form a ring shape and slip it onto your finger. Adjust to give a comfortable fit which goes over the knuckle without difficulty. Read off the letter indicated by the arrow - that’s your size.

The Kerr-Fry Awards 2000–2001

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED for the above awards, tenable for the academic year 2000/2001 and available to persons wishing to undertake experimental or research work in an area of their choice.

Examples of past use of Awards are:

- Study tour of invertebrate zoos
- Study tour of the Holy Land
- Study tour of US Science Libraries
- Study for formal qualification

Applications are welcome from all quarters, but preference is given to applicants who are:

- Of Scottish birth or descent, not less than 25 years old, and both a graduate of the University of Edinburgh and a former student of at least 3 years’ standing of George Watson’s College, Edinburgh.

For further details and applications forms please tick the box on the Information Please form.

The winner of £500 worth of holiday vouchers from Cox & Kings for prompt return of the alumni questionnaire was Mrs Helen Simpson née Bradley MA (SS) 1989.

GERMAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, 1894-1994

Now on sale, price £10.00, from the University of Edinburgh Centre, 7 - 11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9BE. It is also available by post from Development & Alumni Services, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL, price (including postage and packing) £12.00 (UK) and £12.50 (overseas). The book, celebrating the first hundred years of the Department of German and the gradual introduction of Modern European Languages at the University of Edinburgh, has 41 illustrations and is 462 pages in length. The author, Sheila Wagg, was associated with the German Department for some 45 years, first as a student and then as departmental secretary until her retirement in 1996.
The Talbot Rice Gallery in Old College is the Art Gallery of the University of Edinburgh. Opened in 1975, it was named after David Talbot Rice, Professor of Fine Art at the University from 1934 to 1972. The gallery has two spaces: the Red Gallery devoted to showing part of the University Torrie Collection of Old Master paintings and bronzes; and the White Gallery showing approximately seven temporary exhibitions per year.

**Peter Greenaway**

**art works 63-98**

Although recognised predominantly as the director responsible for films such as The Draughtsman’s Contract, Drowning By Numbers, The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover and The Pillow Book, Peter Greenaway trained as an artist and, over the past 35 years, has amassed a sizeable body of work. Indeed, Greenaway himself refuses to acknowledge the traditional boundaries that exist between artist and filmmaker, preferring to see the two disciplines as inseparably intertwined.

**Terra Nullius**

**recent paintings by Robert Maclaurin**

This year’s Festival exhibition featured recent work by Robert Maclaurin who has returned from Australia with his strongest set of paintings to date. Maclaurin enjoys experimenting with scale and perspective both in the canvasses on which he paints and in the subjects they feature. Although obviously landscapes, Maclaurin has chosen in some cases to strip away so much of nature’s handiwork that his own becomes intriguingly abstract, and in others to create honey-coloured hills in scenes that are at once both childlike and melancholic.

**From 24 September to 30 October, ‘Twilight Enclosures’ features sculptural photographic installation works by Jim Harold.** The exhibition consists of new photographs of the University’s classical antique plaster casts shown in context with images from other international collections. A conference will be held during the exhibition in the Edinburgh College of Art, with speakers from the University and the National Galleries of Scotland. Sculpture is again represented from 13 November to 18 December when the Talbot Rice Gallery will show a group of new works in metal and resin by Ainslie Yule.

**The Millennium season at the Talbot Rice opens with a retrospective exhibition, from 14 January to 19 February, of the multifaceted work of Bruce McLean.** Painting, film and performance are just some of the media in which he has worked and these will be represented, together with recent public projects.

**From 26 February to 25 March the Northern Ireland artist Alistair McLennan will create a new installation for the Talbot Rice Gallery which, from 7 April to 4 June, will be one of seven Edinburgh venues for the fifth British Art Show.**

For further details, contact the Talbot Rice Gallery Tel: 0131 650 2085

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**In the summertime**

This was a curated exhibition of the works of 11 artists selected from the WASPS network (Workshop Artists Studio Provision Scotland) of over 200 artists. Although semantics, nature and communication were an ever present thread through the exhibition, the main aim was to expose the visitor to the immediate sensual pleasure and magnetism of work that is rich, vivid and accessible.

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**Richard Walker in conversation with the Gallery’s Assistant Curator, Pat Fisher:**

**RW** The images are very simple things, things that I see everyday. It’s trying to look at objects that are around all the time, to see them in a fresh way, just to see them as they are - but it’s also what I feel about what I’m looking at.

**PF** Tell me how the process begins - are there a number of things surrounding you in the studio?

**RW** It begins with doing a lot of bad work. First of all there are things that just don’t work out. Sometimes you imagine that nothing will work, that you’ll never get anything out of this subject. Particularly with the studio space - it was nothing, a very bare room and I deliberately decided to do something from that room. There was no view, the window looked onto a white wall...slowly I saw things that were interesting to me, shapes or the light...I would paint that....... When I’m painting I’m not aware of thinking in a contemporary way, I’m just painting. I’m just painting the way I happen to paint and that comes out of my training and my traditions, paintings that I like and people that I speak to.
The Historic Instruments Collection

The University maintains Scotland’s leading collection of historic musical instruments which are on display in the Reid Concert Hall in Bristo Square. On exhibition are around 1,000 items from around the world, representing the instrument maker’s art over the past 400 years. Normal opening hours are from 3-5pm on Wednesdays and from 10am-1pm on Saturdays. (and 2-5pm, Monday to Friday, during the Edinburgh International Festival). Tel: 0131 650 2423

The Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments

Housed in the 18th century St Cecilia’s Hall, on the corner of the Cowgate and Niddry Street, the Russell Collection is one of the world’s most important collections of early keyboard instruments, including pianos and harpsichords, ranging from the 16th to 19th centuries. The Collection is open 2-5pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except public and University holidays) and Mondays - Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm during the Edinburgh International Festival. Admission and guided tour, £1.00 (conc. 50p). Catalogues and a Guide to the Collection are on sale. Tel: 0131 650 2423 (just one of the historic harpsichords is featured in Omniana on page 11)

The Natural History Collection

This extensive teaching collection of specimens and models of all kinds of animals can be seen by prior arrangement during Easter and Summer vacations. Enquiries to the Institute of Cell, Animal & Population Biology, Ashworth Laboratories, King’s Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3J T. Tel: Dr Pat Preston 0131 650 5477 or Dr B.E. Matthews 0131 650 5474.

The Matthew Architecture Gallery

The Matthew Architecture Gallery, housed in the University’s Department of Architecture at 20 Chambers Street, has a varied series of architecture-related exhibitions throughout the year, covering contemporary and historical work, as well as associated disciplines such as design.

Faust: Alan McGowan

‘Faust’ is an exhibition of large-scale charcoal drawings by Alan McGowan produced as illustrations to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s play ‘Faust: Part One’, which was first published in Germany in 1801. The cycle of drawings seeks to create a contemporary and evocative interpretation of this classic text, highlighting its power and relevance to a modern audience. The works also seek to assert both the importance of the figurative tradition and the ability of illustration as an art form to deal with serious issues in a moving and powerful way.

Alan McGowan, a working illustrator and artist, is a research fellow at the University of Northumbria, Newcastle, and lecturer in illustration at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee.

The Gallery is open during term time from 10am-8pm Monday to Friday, and from 10:30am-2:30pm on Saturday and Sunday. (10.30am-4.30 pm Monday to Friday outwith University term time).

For information on forthcoming exhibitions, Tel: 0131 650 2306
HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE to be part of the historic victory in 1995 against France. It was the first time a Scottish side had won at the Parc des Princes. The result and the manner of the victory were so memorable that I can recall vividly not just the match itself, but the build-up to the game and the after-match celebrations. This included the after-match dinner which was great fun.

In the palatial surroundings of a Parisian government building the Scottish entourage were sipping champagne in a beautiful banqueting hall with a jazz band creating a relaxed atmosphere. The French after-match dinner is unique in that all the players from each team are seated amongst themselves and not intermingled: a recipe for shenanigans. It must be said that it is these goings-on I remember better than the meal itself, which was typically French - beautiful food spanned out over six or seven courses.

However, as we approached the main course the champagne and high spirits seemed to make the players feel they were invisible to watching coaches and committee members. As the plates were laid at the table, they were so hot one player deduced that a tap from a dessert spoon would shatter them quite easily. There followed a domino effect of the players smashing each other’s plates, and those who tried to stick them under their arms were foiled by players sneaking around behind them and still shattering Paris’s best china. In about two minutes the table looked as though a bomb had hit it, and immediately our manager came storming over to rebuke us all. Even getting our knuckles rapped couldn’t shake our celebratory mood, although we were very much subdued until the end of the meal.

That is, apart from Damien Cronin. Our captain, Gavin Hastings, was determined to make his speech in French, and enlisted Damien’s help as he was playing club rugby in France and could speak the language. However, Gavin obviously couldn’t and Damien altered his speech in certain places. So, after Gavin read out his thank-you’s to the various dignitaries, referees and the French side - all in perfect French - his final line had been tampered with by Damien, and he ended up saying, in a very dignified manner: “This has been a great day for Scotland and I am now going upstairs to have sex with my wife all night long, thank you.” Needless to say, he was a bit shocked as he sat down to thunderous laughter from all the French speakers present. Definitely a meal that sticks in the mind, especially as nothing like that happens in the professional era.

Gregor Townsend graduated MA from the University of Edinburgh in 1995, and is a member of the Scotland squad for the 1999 Rugby World Cup.