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THIS SUMMER issue of EDIT takes genetics as its theme. The recent publication of The Human Genome Project’s landmark sequencing paper has provided scientists not only with exciting findings, but also with the basis of many years of research in a wide range of areas related to human health.

Earlier this year, Edinburgh played host to the 6th Conference of The Human Genome Organisation (HUGO), the first occasion on which it has met in the UK. The University of Edinburgh’s strengths in genetics research ensured it was strongly represented at the conference, as well as on the organising committee.

The range of genetics research ongoing at Edinburgh is reflected in articles by Professor Adrian Bird, on how a combination of ‘blue skies’ and applied research is pointing the way towards a possible treatment for Rett Syndrome; by Professor Veronica van Heyningen on how modern genetics has revealed that the same set of highly conserved genes controls eye development from fruit flies to man; and by Professor David Porteous on the application of state-of-the-art Human Genome Project methods to the analysis of blood samples collected from families at high risk of schizophrenia or bipolar affective disorder.
THE UNIVERSITY has made a major commitment to protecting the environment by signing a three year deal to use electricity from wind power and small scale hydro sources operated by ScottishPower.

Over forty five buildings owned by the University are now supplied with energy from these green sources, notably the Dun Law Wind Farm in the Borders and a fast flowing river in Galloway. The deal has led to a 40% reduction in the quantities of carbon monoxide emitted by the University and to considerable savings on electricity.

Robin Harper, Rector of the University and Green MSP, has given the deal an especially warm welcome: “As a large organisation, we believe that we should be setting a good example for the rest of Scotland as well as the public sector, which has an important role to play in making renewable energy supplies a viable option for the UK.”

THE PRINCIPAL, Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland, has been appointed to the House of Lords in the new non-party political list recently introduced as part of the constitutional changes to the House of Lords’ membership.

This honour- the only one given in Scotland in this round- recognises Professor Sutherland’s outstanding work across higher education and in public service more generally. It is particularly welcome that a senior university leader with wide experience and service in education and public life will be able to make his contribution to the debates and legislative processes affecting both Scotland and the United Kingdom.

Sir Stewart Sutherland became Principal of the University in 1994 and since then has combined a formidable workload as academic leader of the University of Edinburgh, with major contributions to public service. He was chairman of the Committee on Appeal Courts Procedure for the then Scottish Office and more recently was Chair of the Royal Commission on the Long-Term Care of the Elderly.

THE AWARD-WINNING journalist and broadcaster Sheena McDonald explored the changing role of the media in the modern world in a keynote lecture in February - “The Media We Deserve” - part of the prestigious Edinburgh Lectures series.

Only a few years ago, she said, the necessary qualities for successful journalism were deemed ‘a plausible manner, a little literary ability … and a rat-like cunning … to ferret out things people don’t want to be known’. But, in the context of more immediate technology, people seem to want to know less. There’s a decreasing market for ferreters and, at the same time, life on the road is becoming more dangerous Geneva Convention regulations are increasingly flouted. What, she asked, is the journalist to do? Carry on bravely? Or become more entertaining?

Sheena McDonald was born in Dunfermline, Fife, and graduated from this University in 1976 before gaining a postgraduate certificate in radio, film and television studies from the University of Bristol. She has presented such acclaimed news programmes as ‘The World at One’, ‘Channel 4 News’, ‘The World This Week’ and ‘International Question Time’ and, in 1995, she received the first-ever ‘Woman in Film and Television’ Award.
DIXONS FUND NEW CHAIR

DIXONS GROUP plc is to provide the financial support - £800,000 over three years - for a new Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University’s School of Management Studies. The new post was launched at a ceremony in Edinburgh attended by Wendy Alexander, Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning, Mr John Clare, Chief Executive of Dixons plc and representatives of the University on Tuesday 10 April.

The new Chair will play a leading role in stimulating crucial research in this area, expanding the options open to undergraduate, MBA and postgraduate students and contributing to advanced management and executive education.

“We are delighted to support this pioneering initiative in one of Britain’s top universities,” said Mr John Clare, “We believe that this post will make a significant contribution in helping business and the wider community to take full advantage of the opportunities that are opening up with new technology. As an innovative and competitive retailer, we feel that there is excellent synergy between Dixons Group plc and the University.”

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES have launched a new series of hard-hitting and eye-catching posters designed to encourage good relations between students and their neighbours. One poster, urging students to remember to put their refuse out on time, features a drawing of a bag of rubbish and the slogan “always remember the old bag downstairs”.

Terry Cole, Director of Accommodation Services said: “The University is determined to do everything it reasonably can to foster good relations between the student body and the rest of the community. Particularly, in view of the large concentrations of students which have developed in recent years in some parts of the city, we have considered various ways in which we could encourage students to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

“We decided to commission a series of striking posters highlighting possible areas of difficulty. These include fire and flood dangers, noise and refuse disposal. We believe in the cliché about a picture being worth a thousand words, and we are hopeful that this poster campaign will make a significant contribution to encouraging neighbourly relations in the city. We have received strong support for this campaign from various community groups.”

THE 2000 UNIVERSITY of Edinburgh/Royal Bank of Scotland Alumna of the Year is Rev Ruth Patterson, Director, Restoration Ministries, Belfast, and the first woman to be ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. 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.

Ruth Patterson graduated BA in Spanish and Politics in 1965 and with a Diploma in Social Work in 1966 from Queen’s University, Belfast. After graduating in 1968 with a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Toronto, Canada, she returned to Ireland to work as Assistant Presbyterian Chaplain at Queen’s University. In 1974 Ruth Patterson graduated BD in Ecclesiastical History with First Class Honours from the University of Edinburgh. Two years later she was the first woman to be ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. In 1991 she became Director of the Restoration Ministries, a non-denominational charitable trust at the forefront of promoting peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. She is known internationally as a peacemaker in action and a transformer of society.
NATO SECRETARY General Lord Robertson outlined his vision of a permanently stable Euro-Atlantic area in Nato and the New Millennium, in the University’s annual Mountbatten Lecture.

Describing the range of policies that NATO has adopted to influence the post-Cold War security environment in a positive way, Lord Robertson stated that, unlike the Cold War agenda, which was essentially about preventing the ‘worst case’ scenario, today’s security agenda allows NATO to adopt a bolder strategy. Through its Partnership approach, NATO is now contributing to the emergence of pan-European crisis management capabilities, and facilitating defence reform. Through its support for the efforts of the European Union to acquire serious crisis management capabilities, said Lord Robertson, NATO is facilitating a new transatlantic bargain, where burdens and responsibilities are shared more equitably.

George Robertson was Member of Parliament for Hamilton (latterly Hamilton South) from 1978 to 1999. On 24 August 1999, he received a life peerage and took the title Lord Robertson of Port Ellen. He became Secretary of State for Defence in May 1997, until his departure in October 1999 when he succeeded Dr Javier Solana as Secretary General of NATO.

THE JAMES Tait Black Memorial Prize has been awarded to Zadie Smith for “White Teeth” and Martin Amis for “Experience”. The oldest literary award in Scotland, the James Tait Black Memorial Book Prizes are particularly highly valued amongst writers because they are judged by academics. The award is made annually for the best work of fiction and the best biography, on the recommendation of the Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature of the University - Professor John Frow.

“Zadie Smith’s novel is polemical and politically self-aware, yet never resorts to the politically correct or to ethical absolutes,” explains Professor Frow. “It is about locality and particularity, about a specific, identifiable culture, or mix of cultures, which is known from the inside; its London springs from the page in the rich and comic play of vernaculars, each of which rings remarkably true.”

In the biography category the prize went to renowned author Martin Amis. Professor Frow said that “unlike many of the biographies we read, which combine scholarly precision and scope with a deadening mode of omniscient ‘realist’ narration, Amis’s “Experience” is a fully writerly book. A ‘memoir’ rather than an autobiography, its episodic and recursive form nevertheless adds up to a self-accounting which is relentless and thorough.”

THE BATTLE for academic rowing supremacy tipped in Glasgow’s favour following a closely-fought Scottish Universities’ Boat Race on the River Clyde on June 2. Glasgow’s narrow victory in the Walter Scott & Partners Edinburgh-Glasgow Boat Race gives them a 2:1 advantage over their historic rivals, in terms of races staged since the event made its comeback in 1999. However, overall in all the races of the event Edinburgh was victorious in four out of seven. The Women’s 1st crew retained the Varsity Boat Race Rose Bowl, completing a trio of wins in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Edinburgh and Glasgow are practically neck and neck when it comes to recorded victories throughout the entire history of the event. Although the men’s race was first held on the Clyde in 1877 in front of 50,000 spectators, the record of results is far from complete. But, based on available records, Edinburgh has now recorded 16 victories compared to Glasgow’s tally of 17 wins.

Rowers taking part in this year’s race, which secured more than £40,000 of sponsorship from Edinburgh investment managers Walter Scott & Partners, had predicted a close contest over the 2.5km course. Edinburgh University Boat Club President Cameron Crambie-Smith said after the race: “It was a very difficult one to call. But the Edinburgh-Glasgow race is very much a one-off event and we performed well on the day.”
A TOTAL of over £1 million has been raised for the Alumni Fund through telephone calls to graduates. Since spring 1998, more than 3,000 graduates have generously contributed to reaching this milestone, which reflects the value that so many place on the University of Edinburgh.

Donations from the telephone campaigns have been channelled primarily into programmes supported by the Alumni Fund such as Small Project Grants and Bursaries. The fact that over 1200 people have agreed to give on a continuing basis means that the Alumni Fund can provide sustained help for these programmes, so crucial to the University’s excellent reputation.

The telephone allows our student callers to explain how giving to the Alumni Fund supports the future of Edinburgh, and they can also deal with any questions that arise immediately. Over the three years that we have been speaking to graduates a rich dialogue has developed between our student callers and alumni.

In October 2001, we shall embark on the next £1 million telephone campaign. With the enthusiasm and dedication of our student caller team and the support of graduates we can work toward securing a future of continuing excellence at Edinburgh.

NEW RESEARCH CENTRE FOR INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS for inflammatory diseases are being developed at a new medical research centre - the first initiative of its kind in Scotland. The Centre for Inflammation Research (CIR), which has attracted research grants in excess of £30 million, has been jointly established by the University’s Faculty of Medicine and the Medical Research Council (MRC). It is the first time that the MRC and a Scottish university have established a research centre together.

The centre, opened by University Principal Sir Stewart Sutherland and MRC Chief Executive Sir George Radda, has a particular interest in inflammatory diseases of the lung - such as asthma and chronic bronchitis - as well as inflammatory diseases of the kidney, which are the commonest cause of a requirement for dialysis. More than 150 scientists work in eight major groups at the centre, which was awarded a £1.5 million grant by the MRC last July.

With some of the UK’s foremost researchers in inflammatory disease, the CIR encourages collaborative and interdisciplinary research. Its innovative research programme closely interweaves basic and clinical science. A key aim is to develop an integrated understanding of the cellular interactions involved in the onset, regulation and resolution of the inflammatory process and, in so doing, generate knowledge which can drive the development of new treatments.

COOKING UP A STORM

WORLD RENOWNED expert on oriental cuisine Ken Hom gave a cookery demonstration at the University’s Chapterhouse Restaurant on 31 January. Hom boasts years of experience as a chef and teacher. He made his first television series with the BBC eighteen years ago.

The audience comprised around 100 catering professionals who were enthralled by Hom as he prepared three sumptuous dishes using only one wok in less than 45 minutes.

Hom explained the importance of quick marinating in soy sauce, rice wine and sesame oil and then transferring the food to a searing hot wok with very little oil. He used a variety of sauces by Lee Kum Kee who had organised the event.

Discussing how easy it is to buy exotic produce in the UK today, in comparison with twenty years ago, Hom praised the British for their willingness to try new kinds of food. He said the UK was now one of the most exciting countries in the world for gastronomic innovation.
Edinburgh’s Gene Pool

In the aftermath of the sixth annual Human Genome Organisation’s Conference, JENNIFER TRUELAND explains why Edinburgh was chosen as this year’s venue and talks to some of the main players at Edinburgh in this revolutionary field.

For many, the name Edinburgh is synonymous with some of the most exciting advances in genetics. Who can forget Dolly the sheep, for example, born just outside the city’s confines at the nearby Roslin Institute?

The human players in the genetics field might not enjoy the huge celebrity status of the world’s first successfully cloned mammal, but Dolly is far from being the only big name to put Edinburgh on the international genetics stage. And the University of Edinburgh does more than its fair share to enhance that reputation. Far from being locked in the past, one of the UK’s most ancient educational institutions is also at the cutting edge of genetic research; research which looks set to reshape the way we live.

It was no accident that earlier this year Edinburgh found itself playing host to some of the world’s leaders in genetics. The Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) chose the city for its sixth annual meeting, the first time it has been held in the U.K. Experts ranging from Lord Winston, the fertility pioneer, to Nobel prize-winner Christiane Nusslein-Volhard to Canada’s Bartha Maria Knoppers, known for shaping our ethical approach to genetics, were among the hundreds who attended the meeting at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

According to Professor Adrian Bird, the director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology based at the King’s Buildings, Edinburgh has gradually built up its reputation in genetics over the last century. “We can hold our own with anywhere else in the world,” he says. “That’s partly because of the sheer variety of work responsible for bringing such a distinguished meeting to the U.K., let alone the city. A quick glance at the list of organisers and it’s easy to see why. Professor Nick Hastie, for example, is the director of the MRC Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh and has, over the years, worked on a range of topics including RNA complexity, mouse genome organisation, molecular evolution and mammalian development genetics. For the last ten years, however, his work has focused on trying to understand the mechanisms underlying Wilms’ tumour, which attacks the kidney. Veronica van Heyningen, a group leader at the MRC Human Genetics Unit, who has been working on the genetics of human disease and gene mapping since before the Human Genome Project was created, and who is particularly interested in the genetics behind developmental eye diseases, was another key member of the Edinburgh-based committee.

As one might expect, the University of Edinburgh was not only strongly represented but also played an important part in organising the meeting. Indeed, according to HUGO president Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, the strength of the University’s reputation in different areas of genetics was an important factor in bringing the meeting to the city.

‘Edinburgh is one of the leading centres in the U.K. – and the world – in genetics research, particularly in research using mice,’ said Professor Lap-Chee Tsui. ‘When deciding where to hold these meetings, it is also important to have an active local organising committee. And of course we look at things like transport links and a location which people will want to visit.’

Apart from the beauties of the city, then, Edinburgh’s researchers were largely far from being locked in the past, one of the UK’s most ancient educational institutions is also at the cutting edge of genetic research; research which looks set to reshape the way we live.
Now that all these genomes are being sequenced, everyone involved in biology is doing genetics, the definition of what is and what isn't genetics is becoming much looser.

that's going on. If you look at the number of geneticists across different departments, that adds up to a lot of people. The reasons for this are partly historical. 'Edinburgh had the earliest department of genetics (The Institute of Animal Genetics), which was set up in 1920,' says Professor Bird. 'It was the first of its kind and it attracted more and more people.' Once a critical mass had been established, the whole thing just grew and grew, he adds.

ORIGINALLY THE genetics department concentrated on animal breeding, but the whole area was revolutionised in the 1950s with the discovery of the structure of DNA. The study moved from using mathematics to work out the probable results of putting two different strains together, for example, to a molecular science.

Another great leap forward, the sequencing of the human genome, as reported last year, has led to far greater attention being paid to genetics by scientists from a variety of different fields. 'Now that all these genomes are being sequenced, everyone involved in biology is doing genetics,' says Professor Bird. 'The definition of what is and what isn't genetics is becoming much looser.'

Indeed, genetics has become a tool for all sorts of biologists including computing experts, through bio-informatics, brought in to help unravel the complexity of the human genome. Similarly, researchers trying to find out about a particular protein, for example, will want to know its genetic basis and genome sequencing will effectively allow them to locate this at the touch of a button.

Elsewhere in this issue of EDIT, Professor Bird describes how his own research group has made a bridge between cell biology and medicine by studying the protein MeCP2, which plays a significant role in Rett Syndrome, a tragic condition which affects little girls at the age of about 18 months. The Professor describes this as an example of 'blue skies' thinking which, somewhere down the line, should have major clinical benefits.

Nor is it genetics at Edinburgh confined only to science. The Faculty of Law, for example, held a one-day conference recently to discuss issues such as the patenting of genetic information and the intellectual property rights of this kind of research. Alexander McCall Smith, Professor of Medical Law at Edinburgh, believes the subject should not be limited to science alone. 'I think it's extremely important that there should be an interdisciplinary approach,' he says. 'Genetics raises fundamental questions of human definition, our purpose and how we perceive ourselves. It is important that as a society we have a full ethical debate.'

As vice chairman of the Human Genetics Commission, the body set up around a year and a half ago to advise the government, Professor McCall Smith, is extremely aware of public concerns. These surround such issues as DNA databases, patient confidentiality and the question of how the growing available battery of tests for genetic conditions might affect an individual's ability to purchase insurance, for example. Although the Human Genetics Commission does not have a public education function, its role is partly to think around the legal, ethical and social issues raised by human genetics. In other words, it goes behind the science to consider how the basic biology affects our everyday life.

This issue is also very close to Professor David Porteous' heart. Formerly at the MRC Human Genetics Unit, he is now Professor of Human Molecular Genetics and Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the University. His new role involves exploring exactly how the basic science can be translated into practice. In other words, how does the work in the laboratory eventually come to benefit the patient. 'In essence we want to build on the research of what we know about single gene disorders like cystic fibrosis, for example, and ask if we can use it as a medicine, as gene therapy. This research has had a further boost because Edinburgh is part of a UK-wide consortium which includes other groups in both Oxford and London.

'Why also have a major programme in the genetics area of mental health, particularly schizophrenia and manic depression, which both have a strong genetic element. These are perplexing and distressing conditions and we'd like to know their biological basis so that we can try to find new routes to developing more effective drug treatments.'

PROFESSOR PORTEOUS' recent move from MRC to University is another indication of the level of interest in and enthusiasm for genetic research at Edinburgh. The University has close links with a number of research institutions in the city and further afield, including the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, the MRC Human Genetics Unit at the Western General Hospital and, of course, the Roslin Institute. This allows the University to call upon a range of experts to lecture and supervise students as well as collaborate on some ground-breaking research.

So far, however, Dolly the sheep has not been called upon to take a seminar. But, now that she has been officially 'retired', and presumably has more time on her hooves, you never know.

Jennifer Trueand is a freelance journalist. She graduated MA in English Literature from the University of Edinburgh in 1988.
OLD COLLEGE was always intended to have a dome. It was there in architect Robert Adam’s original designs, publicly displayed on the November day in 1789 when the foundation stone for the University’s new building was laid.

The intention to crown the building with a dome survived Adam who died in 1792, when the money ran out and building operations ground to a halt. It survived the hiatus of the Napoleonic Wars, when construction remained on hold. In fact something closely resembling Adam’s dome is evident in the revised single Quadrangle designs by the young William Playfair, who had been commissioned to complete the building in peacetime after Waterloo.

However, it was not converted into reality when what is now known as ‘Old College’ was completed in the 1820s; even the then substantial sum of £121,000 spent on the building was not sufficient to provide for it.

Thus Old College was to stand domeless for much of the 19th century, until the University approached the 300th anniversary of its foundation in 1883. The project was revived and a third architect was commissioned. Robert Rowand Anderson had been selected in the 1870s to design firstly the new Medical School Building in Teviot Place, largely the product of public subscription, and later the Graduation Hall, funded by William McEwan.

Anderson’s success with the Medical School obviously impressed the Dome Committee, established under the chairmanship of Sir William Turner, Professor of Anatomy. Moreover the money was now available, as Robert Cox, a lawyer from Gorgie, had bequeathed a sum to the University for exactly that purpose (amounting to £4,400 by 1886).

And so it was that a more substantial dome was eventually completed in 1887, at a cost of £3,700 and, with the money left over, John Hutchison RSA was commissioned to deliver ‘a figure in bronze’. The following year, the statue of ‘Youth bearing a Torch of Knowledge’, was duly put in place.

Eventually, 100 years after the plans were first drawn up, the College was completed and Mr Cox’s role in its completion was not to be forgotten, for nestling in the wall of the room under Anderson’s dome is a bust of ‘a just and generous man, a learned author, an enemy of ignorance and superstition...’ and the person, of course, who made possible the erection of perhaps the University’s most significant landmark in the City.
There is a risk with nearly all research that maybe your work will turn out to be in vain. Maybe the road you’ve chosen to go down becomes nothing more than a dead end.

**PROFESSOR ADRIAN BIRD**

from The Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology at the Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology describes his own concerns but highlights one example where the rewards look set to far exceed the worries.

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For more decades than I wish to remember, my research group has been studying the way that genes are controlled during development. I like to think that we do “blue skies” research, seeking to solve problems because of their scientific interest, heedless of earthly considerations. This differs, in theory at least, from “applied” research, which addresses a problem, such as AIDS or cancer, by studying it directly. To be honest, the two approaches are not as different as they sound, and are rarely seen in anything like a pure form. We have attracted funding for our past work because it was deemed to have, somewhere down the line, the potential for good - a view we did nothing to discourage. I seemed to confront my mixed motives annually, at Christmas family reunions where I would explain once again to non-scientist relatives why my work was so important. But, I wondered privately, would patients ever really benefit from the study of these particular molecules, intriguing though they may be? This article is about an answer to that question, which we got all of a sudden 18 months ago.

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**THE STORY STARTS** in 1990 with the discovery of a protein called MeCP2. My laboratory was located in Vienna at the time, and our “blue-skies” problem was to understand how genes become silenced. There are at least 35,000 different genes in every human cell, each one bearing the instructions to make a different protein. A particular type of cell only “translates” some genes into protein; the others - those not needed in that type of cell - being shut down. Blood cells, for example, translate the gene for the red oxygen-carrier globin, but not the gene for the hair protein keratin. We wondered how leak-proof gene silencing of this kind might be achieved. It was known that some silenced genes have chemical marks (called methyl-CpGs), so we hypothesised that these marks might attract a special protein which, once stuck to them, would bring about gene shutdown. To test the idea, Joe Lewis and Dr Richard Meehan (now both group leaders at the University of Edinburgh) started to “fish” for any protein in cells that would stick to methyl-CpGs in the test tube. The first one we could get hold of in a pure form we christened “methyl-CpG Binding Protein 2”, or MeCP2 for short (yes, there was an MeCP1 that we found first, but it took many years to purify it). Gratifyingly, MeCP2 was attracted to methyl-CpGs in living cells too and could shut nearby genes down.

My laboratory had relocated to Edinburgh in 1990 and secured funding from the Wellcome Trust to...
require lifelong care. As genetically transmitted permanently. Symptoms stabilise and the children which they lose any walking and speaking skills for about 18 months before entering a crisis during which they lose any walking and speaking skills. Rett Syndrome only affects girls, who develop apparently normally for about 18 months before entering a crisis during which they lose any walking and speaking skills permanently.

Female mice with one mutated M eCP2 gene and one normal one (equivalent to Rett girls) live for several months without any apparent symptoms, but at about six months of age they acquire symptoms strikingly similar to Rett Syndrome.

The important finding has been that female mice with one mutated M eCP2 gene and one normal one (equivalent to Rett girls) live for several months without any apparent symptoms, but at about 6 months of age they acquire symptoms strikingly similar to Rett Syndrome. Our results, and those of a parallel study by Dr Rudolf Jaenisch of MIT, were published together in March this year.

This mouse model is vital, as there is literally no alternative route to understanding this condition. Of course, one has to be careful that conclusions drawn from the mouse really do apply to the human situation, but so far at least there are definitely grounds for optimism. The next step is to make sure that all scientists with different types of expertise can study these mice, so we have sent the stock to the Jackson Laboratory in the US, the world’s largest repository of mouse strains.

Much still needs to be done and a treatment for Rett Syndrome is still some way off. But together, the combination of applied research on those with the syndrome itself and blue skies research on M eCP2 has brought about a sea change in our knowledge of what was hitherto a very poorly understood condition. Even my relatives now appreciate the importance of our work, but why, they still wonder, haven’t we cured it yet.

http://www.retsyndrome.org/
Lessons from imperfect miracles
C **H A R L E S D A R W I N** described eyes as “organs of extreme perfection”. Eyes are built to many different plans in different creatures, each so finely adapted for light detection and image focussing, that it is difficult to believe that they all evolved from the same ancestral structure. And yet, by studying the rare instances when this complex, miraculous, process goes wrong, modern genetics has revealed that the same set of highly conserved genes controls eye development from fruit flies to man.

Since 1953 when DNA was first defined as the genetic material, a “central dogma” has been established: “DNA makes RNA and RNA makes protein”. Human DNA is organised into 23 pairs of long “strings” - our set of 23 maternal and 23 paternal chromosomes. Only about 5% of our DNA can be described as a classical “gene” that is translated into proteins. The information encoded by the four letter “alphabet” of four different nucleotides is transcribed into many copies of RNA, still using the same nucleotide code, and that is then translated into strings of amino acids which comprise the proteins. Once more, the order of amino acids determines what the protein can do. Some of the non-coding DNA plays a role in controlling the expression of protein from nearby genes. Such target sequences fulfil this function by the binding regulatory proteins, so that the work of each cell is carried out by the coordinated interaction of many proteins.

About a decade ago, as part of an international collaboration, our group identified PAX6 as the gene responsible for aniridia - a rare human eye condition where the iris fails to form normally, and visual function is defective. The affected individuals carry one dysfunctional and one normal copy of the gene and have a 50 percent chance of passing the faulty gene to each of their children.

The original observation that led us to think about this problem came from a few rare cases of aniridia where both copies of the minimal PAX6 gene were structurally intact, but one copy was functionally disrupted by a chromosomal breakpoint a long distance from the protein coding region. T. Here many other human diseases involving different genes, where chromosomal breaks a long way from the protein coding region cause the same disruption as a mutation within the gene. Therefore we have learnt a very important general lesson about the nature of the human genome. Humans and other mammals may have fewer genes than expected, but the way in which new levels of sophistication have arisen as vertebrates evolved from invertebrates is through the development of much more elaborate control mechanisms for gene expression. We are now looking more closely to identify those flanking regions of DNA which are critical for the correct PAX6 expression. One approach is to search for longer stretches of nucleotide sequence, outside protein coding regions, that have been preserved unaltered throughout evolution between humans, mice, and sometimes other vertebrates such as fish. This is made possible by advances in the mapping and sequencing of the mouse genome, now that the human genome is nearly done.

One manifestation of control mechanism complexity is the strict gene dosage requirement that we see in humans and mice. In the Small eye correction experiment we found that the presence of too many copies of the functional PAX6 gene was as damaging as a reduced gene dosage since mice with PAX6 over-expressed, exhibited eye abnormalities similar to the Small eye state. In a nutshell: for many genes, too much gene product is as bad as too little.

The importance of exact gene dosage and intact long range control for correct gene function are important general lessons with potentially strong impact on the design of gene therapy regimes.

**THE WORK WE ARE** pursuing now is aimed at defining some of the PAX6 interacting genes and proteins. This is partly driven by scientific curiosity, but we also believe that by identifying other genes in the eye development pathways, we shall be pinpointing potential new candidate genes for other eye developmental abnormalities, such as the genes responsible for microphthalmia (reduced eye size) or anophthalmia (absence of eye). These abnormalities arise thankfully rarely and do not show the regular inheritance patterns seen in aniridia, but there is recurrence in families and therefore the conditions are considered to be at least partly genetic. If we can identify the genes responsible for the genetic component of these abnormalities, we can also look for other factors, possibly environmental, which influence whether microphthalmia and anophthalmia can be found in individuals who carry the altered gene.

Interestingly, because PAX6 is so highly conserved even to fruit flies, it is likely that the genes which interact with PAX6 are also conserved in this distant model organism. We are keen, therefore, to develop the mammalian analysis in parallel with colleagues working with fruit flies. New approaches to identifying gene interactions often reveal too many candidates, but if we concentrate on those which show up in both fly and mouse, we might get to the real interactions faster and more efficiently.

PAX6 and many other regulator genes are expressed not only during development, but also in the adult eye, in retina, cornea and lens. It is most likely that here these genes are fulfilling some sort of maintenance role. We want to dissect this aspect of PAX6 function too, as it may turn out to be critical for understanding common later onset eye conditions, like macular degeneration (a common cause of vision loss over the age of 60), and may well lead to the development of new ways of preventing or treating these age-related problems.

Professor Veronica van Heyningen works at the MRC Human Genetics Unit.
Variety show photography by Tricia Malley & Ross Gillespie
Although it is widely acknowledged that nurture as well as nature plays a large part in determining our character, our physical appearance and many of our physical attributes are pre-determined by the genes we inherit from our ancestors. This explains why some of us are born myopic, others have red hair or go bald at an early age. These are some of the most obvious examples of genetically determined characteristics but even smaller details such as eye colour are determined by our genes. It's what makes us all so intrinsically individual: the variety of life.
The suicide of a fellow student has had a dramatic effect on Professor David Porteous’ research work. Here he describes the difference between the potent, but misleading, association between madness and creativity and the realities of trying to find a genetic cause for a variety of mental disorders.
MAY DAY - a celebration of Spring, new life and expectation, or ‘mayday’ distress signal?

O

N 1 MAY, 1973, one of a group of friends at the University of Edinburgh took his own life. In retrospect, it was clear that he suffered from a severe mental illness, but at the time we were tragically unaware of his inner turmoil. The immediate pain and sense of loss gradually gave way to a collective sense of guilt as each recollection added a telling fragment to the reconstructed picture. We were a close, supportive bunch - a stimulating mix of future social workers and scientists, lawyers and linguists, privileged to be enjoying the liberating adventure of student life in the heady 70s. Some of us have since modified our politics and ambitions, but that event remains an indelible and poignant reference point.

In the early 70s, a bit of Freud and Jung, liberally sprinkled with Huxley, Kafka and R.D. Laing were obligatory undergraduate reading. Our concept of mental derangement was largely formed by this hotchpotch of the metaphysical and drug induced, the sexual, psychological and sociological. The strong association between madness and creativity is potent, but misleading. Yes, the list of musicians, poets, writers and artists with a history of mental illness is long and distinguished. Our culture is much the richer for their explorations of the psyche. The leaps of imagination, which can emanate from creative madness and catalyse human cultural evolution may explain its high prevalence in all societies past and present. It must, however, be recognised that only a small minority of poets suffer from psychosis and that an even smaller minority of psychotics are poets. For the vast majority of sufferers, the term mental disorder speaks for itself.

The brutal reality of a young and promising life lost jolted us out of the naive and romantic view of madness. All students have their highs and lows and our friend was no exception - gregarious, brooding, exuberant, passionate, opinionated, witty, sometimes bored, but rarely boring. Exceptionally bright, but uninspired by his chosen subject, he was an otherwise typical 70s Edinburgh undergraduate. We were neither well prepared nor well equipped to handle our grief. One of his classmates was an indelible and poignant reference point.

THE STATISTICS MAKE grim reading. Suicide vies with road traffic accidents as the most common cause of death in young people, particularly men. The incidence of self-harm, particularly in women, is much higher. Clinical depression already affects 15% of the population at some point in their lifetime. It is predicted to supplant heart disease as the greatest single cause of illness worldwide over the next decade or so. Treatment of mental illness accounts for a tenth (£4.2 billion) of the total NHS expenditure, but this is dwarfed by the cost in terms of lost employment and productivity. The full medical, social and economic cost in the UK is estimated at £32 billion annually. Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (otherwise known as manic depression) are severe and debilitating forms of mental illness, both with a very high associated risk of suicide that each affect about 1% of the population. This figure is remarkably constant, irrespective of geographical, social or ethnic background, often striking young adults in the prime of their lives.

Acknowledging these harsh statistics and recognising the devastating impact upon those directly affected and their carers, one might ask why research into mental illness remains the Cinderella in terms of research funding, compared to many other relatively well supported areas, such as heart disease and cancer. There are perhaps three main reasons. Firstly, there remains a general stigma against mental disorder, which infects influential quarters and inhibits widespread recognition of the general case for research support. Secondly, there is a professional tension between those who promote a psychological or social solution over a medical approach. And thirdly, there is the vexed question of definition and measurement. The first and second issues are primarily problems of education and enlightenment, which the growing weight of social, medical and scientific evidence should cure. However, a genuine problem, which we hope genetic research may address, is the difficulty of making an unequivocal psychiatric diagnosis and establishing the optimal course of treatment on that basis. Yes, there are trusty diagnostic manuals, but unlike the cardiologist or oncologist, the psychiatrist lacks hard measures of illness and recovery, like blood pressure and cholesterol levels or tumour histology and radiation responsiveness.

Advanced brain scanning methods can measure brain activity in psychotic and normal individuals. These confirm and extend current thinking on brain development and chemistry in relation to mental illness, but they are still indirect and inexact measures. Since their introduction over the last half-century, anti-psychotic and anti-depressive medicines have had a major impact upon the treatment of psychosis, but they are nevertheless blunt and uncertain instruments in the treatment of mental disorder. The archetypal compounds were designed with a quite different medical purpose in mind. Their potential contribution to psychiatric care was discovered serendipitously. In modern pharmaceutical parlance, they are not rational drugs. If better treatment for psychiatric illness is the obvious goal, then better understanding of the biological basis is the obvious prerequisite. How might that be achieved?

In 1866, the Hungarian monk Gregor Mendel described the results of plant breeding experiments from which he deduced the simple laws of inheritance that are the cornerstone of all genetics. Could genetics, the study of how traits are passed from one generation to the next, cast light upon the darkness of mental illness? It is now very well established that there is a substantial heritable (genetic) component to both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The average 1% lifetime risk rises about 10-fold for the parents, brothers, sisters and offspring of affected individuals and by 40 to 50-fold for identical twins. Note that about half the...
time the identical co-twin will not be affected, so the environment still plays a large part in risk determination. Also, the duration and severity of illness can vary significantly within and between 'high risk' family members. Some will have a single episode and recover fully. For others, the course of illness may be prolonged and the impact profound.

Gregor Mendel chose the traits he studied well - they always bred true. The inheritance patterns of psychiatric illness (like those for heart disease and cancer) are less clear cut. A grandparent and grandchild, or aunt, nephew and niece might be affected, but not the parent. A sister of a young man with schizophrenia may be unaffected herself, but one or more of her children might develop symptoms in young adulthood. How can we make sense of this? First, we can be pretty sure that there is not just one, but several different gene 'culprits'. Furthermore, it is not all in the genes. The environment plays a big part too. Life events (for example, bereavement or loss of employment) and other environmental triggers (possibly viral infection during pregnancy or birth trauma) may edge one individual towards psychosis, but not a close relative with an otherwise obvious brain function, coupled with evidence of genetic damage in affected individuals. In the case of schizophrenia, we have gone one step further and identified a novel gene, which is clearly damaged in the affected members of one large family.

So what does this gene look like and how does it function in the brain? The simple answer is that we don’t know yet. Sometimes, you can tell a lot by just comparing a newly discovered gene with the existing catalogue, but this one turns out to be quite unlike any previously identified gene. However, genes rarely act alone. The proteins they code for often combine with proteins made by other genes to co-ordinate and regulate complex cellular functions. We appear to have hit upon just such mechanism for processing sensory inputs to the brain.

ONLY FURTHER RESEARCH will determine how this tantalising story unfolds. The script to date has been written as a direct result of the skill and determination of a large group of dedicated young scientists. It is gratifying and reassuring that other groups have picked up on our work and are replicating our findings in their family studies. Competition and collaboration is now the order of the day. Research is costly and science funding is tight. This project must compete alongside a multitude of other exciting scientific opportunities arising out of the Human Genome Project.

However, having made this kind of progress, is a successful conclusion in sight? We are optimistic and have a clear game plan, but conviction must be balanced with uncertainty - the scientific hypothesis can only be disproved. Will the next experiment draw a blank or fill in a missing piece of the jigsaw? From these first genetic breakthroughs, can we make similar discoveries in other 'at risk' families and make collective sense of the underlying biology? Will this give us a better way to identify 'high risk' individuals and focus social and medical support services on pre-symptomatic, preventive measures, aimed at diminishing the impact of environmental factors? Will we find out why some patients, but not others, respond particularly well or badly to medication? Can we envisage a time when treatment is personalised on the basis of a better understanding of the biological component? Will gene discovery lead to rational drug development? This is the big hope of the pharmaceutical industry and our hope too. Everyone benefits if safer, better drugs can be developed faster and cheaper. Of course, we want all of the answers today, but maybe, just maybe, we will have some by next May Day.
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 main 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.

**Airworks**
Patricia Macdonald
Edinburgh Festival: 26 July - 7 Sept
(Gallery hours extended to Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5)

Patricia Macdonald is well-known for her amazing aerial photographs which show landscape as abstract artforms. This new exhibition includes several innovative ways of looking at Macdonald's work. Visitors can buy a beautiful catalogue and can also take part in the varied events programme.

1. **Change of State No1**: Melting ice, Forest of Atholl & Rannoch Moor #2,
   Patricia Macdonald
2. **The Levels Series**: Sandbar, North Uist,
   Patricia Macdonald
3. Tor, mixed media
   Philip Reeves Retrospective
4. **Country Life**, Wang Mengqi
   Contemporary Chinese Art
The Gallery is open during term time from 10am-8pm Monday to Friday, and from 10:30am-4:30pm on Saturday and Sunday, (10:30am-4:30 pm Monday to Friday outwith University term-time). For information on forthcoming exhibitions, Tel: 0131 650 2106.

Contemporary Chinese Art
29 September - 3 November

A unique opportunity to see present-day paintings and sculpture direct from China. The influence of traditional Chinese art is often apparent but there are many other facets to these works. A programme of linked Chinese events is being planned.

Philip Reeves Retrospective
9 November - 15 December

A long-overdue survey of the work of this respected Glasgow-based maker of collages and prints. A collaboration with the Hunterian Gallery. Full events programme.

The Historic Instruments Collection

Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments has one of the most active publications programmes of all musical instrument collections worldwide.

EUCHMI has just published three measured technical drawings of 18th century trumpets.

Baroque music is now nearly always played on “period” instruments, typically stringed instruments of the time restored to their original set-ups and copies of original woodwinds. The revival of the baroque trumpet, however, has been the most problematic. The trumpet has evolved over the last two hundred years into an instrument with very different playing properties and tone quality from the much baroque instrument of the same name: louder dynamics have been achieved at the expense of timbre. Because of the difficulties, some players have used compromise instruments which look from a distance like baroque trumpets but in fact have added tone-holes.

The University’s Collection of Historic Musical Instruments has made a contribution to greater fidelity to the baroque sound-world by publishing these drawings, which contain all the information a trumpet maker needs to make an instrument with the same acoustical properties as the original. The drawings have been drafted by Dr Raymond Parks, Honorary Fellow in the Faculty of Music.

Dr Arnold Myers, Director and Curator, Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments.
Most Honoured Sir

It has given me great pleasure since I have been in this Town to hear from Mr. Alexander of your being well & I intended sooner to have given you the news of my having quitted Furnaces & Fumes and Sulphur & Nitre but I also hoped at the same time to have let you know that I had finished your Plan & Built up again The Columns of Bordeaux in spite of the French King - however it has not yet been in my power to accomplish that Work as the Copies of Vitruvius are scarce here & it is hard to get at them --- I am extremly happy in my present situation but at the same time I find my Edinburgh Expenses will far exceed those of Glasgow for the very fees & books for 5 classes will encrease them considerably.

Both Mr. & Mrs. Russel are the most easy frank People imaginable & he besides a consummate Knowledge of his Business has a very ingenious turn for mechanical contrivances & is very ready at inventing machines for the Purposes of natural Philosophy so that you may suppose his conversation will not only be very usefull to me but also extremly agreeable.

I am now thinking upon a Thesis for taking my Degree & Propose to myself a subject which has lately from some new Discoveries of two of the Professors here turned out a very curious one - I mean the Properties & virtues of Lime Water in Dissolving the Stone in the Bladder which if it turns out as it promises will be one of the most usefull medicines in the materia medica & particularly worthy of attention as it shows a tendency to remove one of the most excruciating Disorders that render men miserable. The Discoveries of Dr. White & Dr. Alston are chiefly from Experiments of its dissolving power upon the Stone taken out of the Body & these are very curious indeed but not numerous enough & the two Professors disagree too about its effects & draw very different conusions from their tryals so that nothing can be determined without a greater number of Experiments now these are all of the Chemical kind & here my Chemistry will be of very great service to me.

I have heard lately from my Sister & Brother in Aberdeen & they are all very well as are also The Provost here & all his good Family — I am D earest Sir your most affectionate & Dutyfull Son

Joseph Black

Edinburgh. 2d December.

1752

Many thanks to Peter Freshwater from the University Library for his assistance with this feature.
One of the leading scientists of his generation, Black’s reputation helped establish Edinburgh as one of the leading universities in the United Kingdom.
This high quality collection of jewellery has been designed in a traditional British style, for University of Edinburgh graduates.

Made in solid gold, silver or platinum, the rings come in two styles, one for men and one for women.

The cufflinks are available in gold or silver and feature the University Emblem on one side, with simple oval backs, to which we can add your personal engraving if desired.

To order please complete and return the order form to us. To calculate your ring size, use the printed ring sizer as shown. Alternatively, leave the size box blank and we will send you a complimentary ring sizer by return.

**ITEMS WILL BE DISPATCHED WITHIN 6 WEEKS OF RECEIVING YOUR ORDER**

**PRICES**

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* Items exported to non EC countries do not incur VAT. If your address is outside the EC, please use the export price (in the shaded area).

**POST, PACKING & INS**

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Wording for personal engraving on cufflinks - maximum 12 letters

Cheques should be made payable to 'The University of Edinburgh'. Please return the order form with payment to:

The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh. EH8 9BE. UK

Tel: +44 (0) 131 650 2250   Fax: +44 (0) 131 650 2253

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 following is an extract from a letter written by the Poet and Author Isabel Gillard to a friend in Haddington about a particular recollection of her time at the University of Edinburgh in the early fifties.

Forty-Forty Vision

“Ah wiz thinkin’ o’ thon Chinese Restaurant ower frae the University, oor alma mater - the university ah mean - an’ hoo daurn’ we felt fillin’ o’or plates wi’ oceans o’ rice, exotic veges an’ a meaty substance somme rumoured rat, while ithers pinted oot there wiz nae sign o’ Bletherskite, their auld fat cat.

We took nae herm although in time the vegan diet in the union gied me sixteen-month pause wi’ yon T.B. that naebody suffers fae now.

Bit, tae git back tae the Chinese establishment, is it no queer whit they were indited fur wiz no’ misleadin’ the clientele, bit perevertin’ them wi’ ither noxious substance, gaun under the blanket term o’ ‘drugs’.

First it wiz shut doon, syne demolished. There’s a wee gressy space there noo, an ebryo lung in Chambers Street, wi’ a nice auld, stane wa’ fur background, gittin’ covered wi’ some upwardly mobile plants - they could be japonicas or jasmine, appropriately Eastern onyway.

Embros gey drug-crazed noo, they say. The Chinese must hae done a guid job, an’ yit they aye seemed freindly-like. Maybe they felt they were spreadin’ joy an’ pleasure. There’s a thocht!

Fur years ah thocht that opium wiz somethin’ that the Chinese gied tae us, bit juist fund oot it wiz the British Empire gied it tae them, via the East Indian route. Talk about craws comin’ haim tae roost!

The empire isnae whit it wiz - or dae ah mean it’s whit it’s always been - only we niver saw it straight in they beglamoured days.

Yer alma soror, I.G.

Isabel Gillard, M.A. 1953, Dip Ed 1955
Stafford

Omniana: The Graduation Cap

As a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, I am surprised to read of the claimed origin of the graduation cap. My understanding has always been that the cap belonged to the “Chelsea sage”, Thomas Carlyle (1795 - 1881), who was a graduate of the University (about 1813), lived in Edinburgh for several years, and served a term as Lord Rector from 1866. By
1849, when the cap was presumably made, he had moved to London, but both he and his wife visited Scotland that year.

My belief has been that the cap used at St Andrews University graduations once belonged to John Knox, but I have no confirmation of that.

Mary B. Ratcliff, MA, 1949, MBChB, 1953
Edinburgh

From time to time in conversation with people I mention the ‘capping’ ceremony at the University of Edinburgh and suggest that it may be of biblical origin.

“And the Lord answered Moses, ‘Single out Joshua son of Nun, an inspired man, and lay your HAND upon him...Invest him with some of your authority, so that the whole Israelite community may obey.’” (Numbers 27, 18-20)

Professor Asher S. Kaufman, B.S.c., 1945, B.S.c. Hons Physics, 1948, Ph.D. 1954
Jerusalem, Israel

I was a student at the University of Edinburgh from 1929 - 1932, when I graduated as M.A.. My surname was then Percy.

I well remember the University, and enjoyed every minute of my training. I specialised in Maths and Physics and I especially enjoyed the physics classes where we had a very outstanding Professor whom we adored. During our time he was working on the atom, which he managed to split - for which he got the Nobel prize. I think his name was Professor Barcla, or Barclay. I regret I am not sure about this, but he was a wonderful person.

After graduating, I went to Moray House, and became a teacher of maths and science in different schools in Sutherland for a few years. I then got married, and after that my teaching was part-time relief work, as married women did not get proper jobs at that time in teaching. I retired after another few years.

I am always interested in Edinburgh University News, and wonder if there is anyone else alive who was in that physics class. (I am now aged 90.) I would be glad to know.

Norma K. Sutherland
Sutherland

I was interested to note, in the most recent edition of EDIT, that one of your contributors claimed to be a founder member of the University of Edinburgh Ski Club in about 1947. Admittedly there was a lot of snow from 29 January until May of that year but the ski club was founded eleven years earlier.
My wife and I and Donnie MacKenzie and his wife, as principal guests, enjoyed a very happy evening at Prestonfield House in January 1986 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the ski club.

Ian J Fleming, BSc 1937
Edinburgh

First let me say how much I enjoy receiving EDIT at my Toronto address. However, I want to take issue with the Letter from Edinburgh in the Summer 2000 issue. The letter dated 23 October 1869, was written by Edith Pechey. Edith was one of five women who began studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh that year.

In the explanatory note in the left hand column the writer stated: “They were the first women medical undergraduates in a British university”.

When my biography of Dr Emily Stowe was published (Hannah Institute and Dundurn Press, Toronto 1991), I wanted to begin with the statement that Emily was the first woman doctor in Canada. However, someone was bound to enquire, “What about Dr James Stuart Miranda Barry?” Now my turn has come to raise the same question.

Dr James Barry (1790 - 1865) graduated in medicine at Edinburgh in 1812. She was accepted because she disguised her sex in 1809. In 1857 she was serving in Canada as Inspector-General of (military) Hospitals. Thus I had to proclaim Emily Stowe as the first Canadian woman to practise medicine in Canada.

Dr Barry’s sex was revealed to a few doctors who treated her, but not until her body was being prepared for burial did anyone outside the profession learn the truth. Even then some claimed that she was a male hermaphrodite.

Mary Beacock Fryer, Hons. M.A., 1954
Toronto, Canada

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
University of Edinburgh alumni across the UK and around the world get together to network and socialise. To find out what's happening in your area, simply request a copy of our Alumni Contact booklet using the Information Please form on page 43.

2001 Reunion Programme

1941 MB ChB
31 August 2001, The Raeburn Room, Old College
Contact: Dr Maud Mather, 41 Beech Lane, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 4AF

1961 MB ChB 40th Anniversary Reunion
2 - 4 September 2001, Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel, Perthshire. Contact: Dr Iver Davie, 26 Kingsburgh Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6DZ
Email: ivor@davie41.freeserve.co.uk

1966 MB ChB
31 August 2001 - 2 September 2001
Contact: Dr J Ruth Mackenzie, 23 Cammo Crescent, Edinburgh, EH4 8DZ

1970 MA (Economics)
25 August 2001, Raeburn Room, Old College
Contact: Mr Roderick Gunkel, Orchardlea, Callander, Perthshire, FK17 8BG

1970 - 72 Postgraduate residents of Mylnes Court/Philip Henman Hall
15 September 2001, 12 noon at the Ensign Ewart. For those who arrive early, the organizers will be available in Deacon Brodie's on the evening of Friday 14 September. Spouses, guests and adult children are most welcome.
Contact: Simon Cunningham: 1-212-963-4739 (New York number) cunningham@un.org
Or Michael Thrusfield: 0131 650 6223 Mylnescourt@ed.ac.uk
Even if you cannot make it this time, please contact the organizers so that you can be invited to future events.

1971 BDS
26 - 27 October 2001, Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel, Dunkeld. Contact: Mr William Mathers, Halfway House, Dippenhall, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 5DU

1971 BVM&S
2 - 4 November 2001, Bruntsfield Hotel, Edinburgh.
Accommodation available.
Contact: Mr Steele Finlay, Tel: 01887 830871, mobile: 0774 7618 308, Email: Rsteelefin@AOL.com

date & venue tba
Contact: Mrs Elizabeth Acheson, Tyndrum, Acre Rd, Muirhouses, Bo'ness, West Lothian, EH51 9SX

1981 Medical Final Year Club
28 - 30 September 2001, Peabody Hydor Hotel
Contact: Carol J Johnston, Goshen Bank, Edenside Road, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 7BS

1991 BSc Chemical Engineering/Environmental Chemistry
Date & venue tba
Contact: Mr Ron Hill, 37 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN

1991 BSc Chemistry/Environmental Chemistry
10 Year Reunion
Saturday 29 September 2001, Dinner at Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh
Contact: Neil Blezard, Tel: 01786 445865 or Graeme Cruickshank, Tel: 0191 246 2633

2002 Reunion Programme

1952/53 MB ChB
26 - 28 june 2002, Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh
Contact: Dr Iain S McRobbie, Moordale, Broadgait Green, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2DW

1957 MB ChB
Date & venue tbc
Contact: Professor Gerard Slavin, 8 Normanhurst Park, Darley Dale, nr Matlock, DE4 3BQ

1962 MB ChB
31 May - 2 june 2002, Peebles Hotel Hydro
Contact: Dr Hamish Polson, 16 Blinkbonny Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 4NA

1964 MB ChB
30 August - 1 September 2002, Ottawa, Canada
Contact: Dr Neil MacGillivray, 28 India Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6HB

1967 BSc Chemical Engineering
Date & venue tba
Contact: Mr Ron Hill, 37 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN

1977 MB ChB Final Year Group
30 August - 1 September 2002, Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel. Contact: Professor O J Garden, Dept of Clinical & Surgical Sciences, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9YW

1982 MB ChB
Date & venue tbc - poss. Peebles Hydro in June
Contact: Dr Andrew T Elder, 8 Murrayfield Drive, Edinburgh, EH12 6EB

Edinburgh University Canoe Club 30th Anniversary Dinner
If you were ever a member of EUCC, you are cordially invited to attend this event. For more information please go to www.canoeereunion.co.uk or telephone Fearghal Kelly on 0131 667 4258

2002 Events

Alumni Association of Hong Kong
Early 2002 Cocktail and Buffet Reception to celebrate the visit to Hong Kong by the Principal.
Contact: Murray Burton on (852) 2291-6111 (office), Email: mrburton@vclhk.com.hk or Daniel Fu, Email: daniel.fu@tropicana.com

General Council lunch, February 2001, with guest speaker, novelist Ian Rankin, Alumnus of the Year 1999

Veterinary Graduates of 1950 - 50th anniversary reunion

Hong Kong alumni St Andrew's Day celebration, left to right: Alan Dalgleish, Sally Greig, Murray Burton, Tim Goodman, Sir James Hodge, Daniel Fu.


Fundraising news

£2m Scholarship Boost

Industry signs up to support top Electrical Engineering Students

THE DEPARTMENT of Electronics & Electrical Engineering has secured £2m of support for students from 6 leading technology companies. A pilot scheme for 10 scholarships is already underway supported by BAE SYSTEMS, Tality Corp (formerly Cadence Design Systems) and Agilent (formerly Hewlett Packard). In October, the scheme will be extended to 33 scholarships per annum when the involvement of those companies is increased and they are joined by National Semiconductor, ST Microelectronics and Racal MESL.

In addition to an annual award of £1000 per annum, the scholarships also cover work placements at the companies and support during an MEng project, should the students wish to proceed to the higher degree. Each scholarship is worth between £18,000 and £25,000 to a student over their University course and will be awarded to the top students entering the Department for their first year of study, following interviews with the companies.

Colin Adams, Vice President and General Manager of Tality’s Livingston Design Centre said: “We selected the University of Edinburgh for this programme because its Electronics & Electrical Engineering Department is the highest rated in Scotland. There is a very real shortage of engineers in the UK, and engineers are the lifeblood of our company. By offering mentoring, on-the-job design training and financial assistance to high achieving students, we can help them achieve their potential more quickly. Of course, we hope that they will become candidates for engineering positions at Tality when they graduate”.

Professor Peter Grant, Head of Department, is delighted by the success of the scheme: “These generous scholarships show the value placed on our graduates by industry and will be of enormous benefit to us in assisting our top students financially”.

Brain Campaign Raises £249,000

THE “BRAIN CAMPAIGN” to raise funds for the fight against debilitating brain diseases has raised £249,000 towards its target of £450,000. The money will be used to employ both a dedicated research scientist and a senior neuroradiologist for the next three years to interpret the brain images from the MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) Scanner, housed in the SHEFC Brain Imaging Research Centre at the Western General Hospital.

Diseases affecting the brain are very common and range from everyday life-threatening illness that occur without warning (such as stroke), through more gradual yet equally disabling conditions (such as brain tumours and Alzheimer’s disease), to chronic disorders of the mind which profoundly disrupt the patient’s life and that of their carers (like depression and schizophrenia). Disorders of the nervous system are responsible for approximately five percent of all acute medical admissions in the UK. Nearly ten percent of the population consult their GP each year with a neurological symptom.

Pathways to the Professions

THE SUTTON TRUST has awarded £71,000 over 2 years to the University’s Schools and Colleges Liaison Service to develop Pathways to the Professions, a project launched on 18 June 2001 by the Principal and Peter Lampl, founder of the Trust.

The Project will employ an officer to develop links with faculties, school students and their families and professional bodies with a view to increasing the number of applicants from under-represented groups to courses leading to professional qualifications. In the first phase the project will concentrate on initiatives to widen participation in Law and Medicine.

The Sutton Trust was founded in 1997 by Peter Lampl with the aim of providing educational opportunities for able young people from non-privileged backgrounds. They have funded projects mainly in England, including summer schools, in-service training for teachers, independent/state school partnerships and research.

The Project team would be particularly keen to hear from Law or Medicine graduates in the Lothians who would be interested in offering work observation or mentoring opportunities to local school students. For further information on the programme please contact Sandy Hutcheson, Development Officer for Widening Access on 0131 650 4360 or sandy.hutcheson@ed.ac.uk.

Legacies

THE UNIVERSITY of Edinburgh has benefited from a number of legacies including:

- £55,917 from the late Mrs Christiana MacFarlane to establish a prize in memory of her husband (Dr J ames Hamish MacFarlane - MB ChB 1932)
- £51,000 from the estate of Miss Nan Watson Murray for Neurosciences
- £34,646 from the estate of Professor Emeritus David O Marsh (MB ChB 1956)

Giving through your Will is an easy and flexible way for you to support the University, while still ensuring that your family and friends have been provided for. If you would like further information on how to do this, please tick the box on p 43.
The Alumni Programme

Is it for me?

“I’ve just come to live in Melbourne and don’t know anyone. Are there any Edinburgh grads here?”

“I had a great time playing football at university - how can I get news about the club’s activities and can I help in any way?”

“I would like to ask everyone coming to our reunion to make a financial contribution to the University. Can you help me do this?”

THESE ARE some of the questions we get asked frequently. We try to answer these questions by developing a programme which builds on the goodwill of our alumni, strengthens the University community worldwide and provides opportunities for you to contribute to the life of the University. How do we do this? Quite simply, we look to our alumni to help us. We now have a large number of people who have volunteered to ‘fly the flag’, who are happy to ‘get involved’ in various ways and who really play an important role in helping us implement the alumni programme.

We wanted an opportunity to talk to alumni about developing this network of interest and about channelling it in a meaningful way to benefit the University through, for example:

- student recruitment
- developing business links
- providing graduate employment and work placement opportunities
- fundraising

There are so many ways in which alumni can become more involved in the life of the University, and help sustain Edinburgh’s excellent reputation. If you’d like to find out more about contributing to the alumni programme, please tick the box on the Information Please coupon on page 43. We look forward to hearing from you.
The Alumni Programme and You

A SEMINAR DAY on 7 April brought together reunion organisers, committee members of alumni clubs and people who had helped at events like ALUMNI 2000 and the Edinburgh Glasgow Boat Race. Professor Roland Ibbett, Vice President of The Development Trust opened the seminar and Professor Geoffrey Boulton, Vice-Principal for International Relations, spoke about the University’s aim to build up sustained engagement with particular countries or regions. Alumni from home and overseas discussed how they could help, gave us their comments on our programme for the future and, most important of all, encouraged each other to broaden their thinking about their role as an alumnus of the University of Edinburgh.

Representatives of the alumni group in Atlanta and the recently formed Alumni de l’Université d’Edimbourg en France were present to talk about the ways in which their activities are able to support the University whilst at the same time enabling alumni to get together, enjoy themselves and network.

Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix, a young lawyer in France, enthusiastically described the group’s achievements in its first year and gave a taste of the plans for the future. The website has been set up (www.edalumfrance.org) and a monthly ‘permanence’ organised at The Auld Alliance in Paris.

Lt Colonel Jack Wishart (above, left), who had organised a 40th anniversary reunion of his 1960 BSc (Chemistry) class in 2000, spoke very movingly of his commitment to supporting his University. This led him to asking his classmates at the reunion to consider doing the same:

“There are three things which have shaped my life: this University, marrying my wife and joining the Army. Had education not offered me a way to capitalise on my natural gifts, I would not have met my wife, I would not have joined the Army and I would not be here today. I cannot exaggerate the debt I owe to my education. Because of that, I care deeply about my University. Its reputation is important to me.

“I want our University to be in a position to defend its interests and maintain its standards. I want our university to be in a position where it can help needy students when required. I want our University to be the beacon of excellence it has been for generations. I want you to want what I want, too. And I want you and your peers to help achieve this.”

We aim to build on the feedback we received from the Seminar Day and hope you will consider contributing to the next one - probably Easter 2002.

“The programme had been most carefully thought out and excellently put together.”

“...it was heartening to have input from alumni engaged in putting something of all this into practice.”

Calgary, November 2000; Terry Penelhum, Hazel Sangster, Colin Coates, Tom Brown, Mike McMordie, Brenda Tweedie

DR SUSAN HARDMAN MOORE, of the International Office, has been looking at the many different aspects of studying at Edinburgh as an overseas student, as part of the University’s international strategy. Alumni can play an important role here, also. Edinburgh has been attracting the best students from abroad for 400 years, a tradition of which we are proud. This magazine goes to individuals throughout the world. The University is truly an international institution.

We are particularly keen to strengthen ties where strong links already exist, for example in the USA and Canada; Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and Japan; Malaysia and Singapore; the Middle East; India. A recent event in Calgary demonstrates that this is a two-way process.

While on sabbatical leave in British Columbia, Dr Colin Coates, Director of the Canadian Studies Institute at Edinburgh, joined 56 alumni and guests at the University of Edinburgh Reunion in Calgary. He brought greetings from the Principal and gave a fascinating update on events in Edinburgh, featuring recent institutional successes and some of the challenges facing the University. Attendees showed considerable interest in the new Alumni Passport and the associated services, particularly those available to them when they return to Scotland as visitors. They were also interested in study abroad programmes which they and/or their university-age children might access.

We welcome support from alumni in the countries mentioned or from those who have an interest in these parts of the world. Development and Alumni Services would like to hear from you.
Passport to the University

Over 3000 Passports have now been issued to alumni, allowing them to take advantage of many University facilities, often at discounted rates. Have you got your Passport yet?

If not, please tick the box on the adjacent Information Please form to request one.

You can find out more about the Passport by visiting our website: www.dev.ed.ac.uk/passport

Edinburgh University Rugby Club

The members of Edinburgh University Rugby Club are eagerly looking forward to next season when they will be organising a tour to either South America or Canada. To raise funds they will be holding a number of events, including a black tie dinner following the Calcutta Cup. They are also hoping to revitalise links with past members of the team by giving them the opportunity to attend these events and to buy rugby shirts, ties, and a book about the history of the club written by a former captain, Ian Stevens.

If you would like to find out more, please tick the box or email the address on the Information Please form and we will send further details.

Career Contacts Can you help?

The Careers Service is building up a database of graduates who are willing to help current students of the University gain an insight into the world of work by acting as career contacts. The contact is most likely to involve an informal discussion about your job or area of expertise by telephone or email and should not take up too much of your time. Experience suggests that you won’t get more than 2 or 3 enquiries per year.

If you graduated after 1975 and are willing to act as a career contact, please tick the box or email the address on the Information Please form.

If you responded to our request for career contacts in 1998 and are still interested in offering help, please respond as above as this is necessary to meet Data Protection requirements.

The Edinburgh University Graduates’ Association

The Association aims to help graduates keep in touch with their fellow students and their Alma Mater. Any graduate, former student or member of the teaching or administrative staff is eligible to join:

Life membership: £150
10 year: £100
Annual: £12

The Association publishes a journal twice a year which is sent free to members, who are encouraged to submit material for publication. The Association elects its own Office-bearers and Committee; branches exist throughout the UK, and they arrange social events, lectures and expeditions.

For more information, see www.dev.ed.ac.uk/gradassoc

To join, please tick the relevant box on the Information Please form.

Information Please

To request information, please tick the appropriate boxes, complete the address block and return to: Development & Alumni Services, The University of Edinburgh, FREEPOST, Old College, South Bridge, EDINBURGH, EH8 0LN, Scotland, UK. Email: Development@ed.ac.uk

Title & Full Name
Maiden Name (if married)
Year of Graduation:
Degree & Subject
Address:
Tel Fax Email

Post Code

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES & SERVICES
☐ Please send me my Alumni Passport
☐ Please send me the Alumni Contact booklet listing groups and clubs across the world
☐ Please send me a copy of your Guidelines on Organising a Reunion
☐ Please send me details of the Swan Hellenic Cruise
☐ I am willing to act as a Careers Contact
☐ I would like to join the Graduates’ Association (please enclose a cheque payable to the University of Edinburgh Graduates’ Association)
☐ I would like to help with the Alumni Programme (see page 40)
☐ Please send me information about Rugby Club events and merchandise.

MAKING A DONATION
☐ Please send me information on how to make a donation to the Alumni Fund, which supports a range of activities throughout the University.
☐ Please send me information on leaving a legacy to the University.
☐ Please send me information on how to make a donation to the Neil Campbell Appeal.

LOST ALUMNI & GRADUATE UPDATES

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

Update:
Taught for twenty-five years, raised four sons, now has six grandchildren aged six to fourteen. Golden wedding not too distant.

Mr A N Burra BSc 1945 BSc 1947 just retired - living a quiet life.

Mrs Mabel F Adam née Espin MA 1945 Has now done 500 weekly programmes - 'Book matters' on Radio Tay Covers wide range of books and interviews.

Mr John C Foster MB ChB 1945 Still active in Medico-Legal work.

Dr William L Barton MB ChB 1945 Presently Chairman of the Exmouth Disabled Fellowship - a charity providing 'fellowship' for the elderly, lonely and disabled.

Dr William Lane BSc 1946 Actively engaged in Border history and archaeology.

Dr Frank I Rawson MB ChB 1946 Taormina is a lovely place to live, similar to Scotland in many ways - but with a Mediterranean climate.

Mr Brian B Mayes MA 1948 Retired but fully occupied in local community work and visiting scattered family. Would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers him (Cosmopolitan Club? Dramatic Society?)

Mr Robert K Campbell BSc 1947 Strathclyde Regional Councillor 1994-6. Innercylinder council since 1956.


Rev Ainslie Walton MA 1949 Continuing to work in TV and church part time.

Dr John McQuaid PhD 1949 In Who's in the World (for a second time), Unpublished one-page feature - The Essential Verticality of Wave Motion.
1960s

Mr W E Thompson BSc 1960 Retired from the water industry in 1966 and now employed by a buying group for the CIN Trade on a part-time basis as admin manager doing a lot of computer work and DTP.

Dr Laurence F Slade MB ChB 1960 Retired after 12 years as medical officer, public health service, Wellington, 18 years full time general practice in New Zealand and 10 years in various positions in Scotland.

Dr Ian W Jamieson MB ChB 1960 Retired from Ophthalmic practice April 1997 time spent between Melbourne and house in Brittany.

Mr John Hepburn BSc 1960 Was a candidate in the New Zealand General Election of November 1960. Sole manifesto - to change the existing national flag to one truly representative of NZ featuring the Silver Fern and the Southern Cross. Did not succeed in gaining Ed-B run to win seat MP was re-elected.


Mr Brian Lightoller BSc 1961 Retired 8 years. Busy with grandchildren, church & voluntary work.

Rev Dr Charles I Moffatt PhD 1961 Retired from chaplain, summer regional hospice (Sept 1999) after eleven years of service.

Mr Neil H Morris MA 1966 Happily retired amid the vineyards 53km from StEmilion, with three Chambers of Hôtes where all EU graduates will be especially welcome.

Mrs Morna Hill née Tindal MA 1966 Having retired, was able to be a Pioneer Volunteer with the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, working at the Olympics with IBM using software to produce swimming results (also developed Precious swimming and water polo). Technical Officer on pool deck at the Paralympics.

Mr Robin Wild BDS 1965 November 1999 - elected President of the Council of Chief Dental Officers. Mr Helen B Hannan MB ChB 1965 Retired from the RAMC and still enjoying it! Managing to travel quite a lot, any keen birdwatchers at the garden or greenhouse. Also lectures to the WI.

Mr Brian Lightoller "A Clockwork Orange" MB ChB 1965 Gettting on in life, but still looking for that son in Vet School at Michigan State University and his twin sister studying Medieval History at Oxford. Was sorry not to be able to attend the Millennium Bash!

Mrs Elisabeth Bastow née Mears MB ChB 1966 GP in Lancaster until falling into major brain damage in 1993. Gradually relearning English since.

Mr John D Muff Retired in August 1998. Now travelling six months in the year, mountain trekking, ski-ing and visiting historical sites.

Mr John D Fowler BVMS 1966 PhD 1970 Chaired with harmonising the requirements for registration in 1980. Also a Taxicologist on a European and world-wide basis.

Dr A R Smith MB ChB 1966 Vice President, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. Chairman, Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examination. Chairman, Elect, Joint Committee on Higher Surgical Training.

Dr Peter Malone BVMS 1966 Retired to crofting and also casual post bus service in west Highlands.

Professor Mervyn D Cohen BSc 1966 MB ChB 1968 Has been chairman of Dept of Radiology, Indiana University for past three years - 2nd largest radiography training programme in the USA.

Dr Ann E Bowley-Scott née Keir BMus 1966 Continuing to operate a music studio and pursue a lot of outdoor recreational activities - biking, hiking, golf, running. Also plays squash 3-4 times a week. Now a grandmother!

Mrs Ann O Willie MA 1966 Assumed VP Environment at CBCL Ltd, a multidisciplinary consulting company serving clients in the UK and overseas in mid 1999. Responsible for all environmental work and a multi-disciplinary team of environmental scientists, engineers, and specialists in landscape architecture and law. Dr Judith Mackay MB ChB 1966 Has lived in Hong Kong since 1962, and is Senior Policy Advisor to the World Health Organisation. In 2000 she published her latest book and received three major awards - The Luther E Terry Award for Outstanding Individual Leadership, a Royal Award from His Majesty the King of Thailand; and she was the first woman to receive the HealthMark Award, the Public Health equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Mr Paul R Lucks BSc 1967 Recently clocked up 12 years working for Reuters, primarily in technical and sales support roles but has now made the break 100% into sales of dealing room systems.

Dr James French MB ChB 1967 Retired as Director of Radiology, Western Hospital, Melbourne 1982-1999. Now part time private practice radiologist.


Rev Ralph E Nelson MTh 1967 Served as a Visiting Professor of Old Testament at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Osijek, Croatia in March 1999. While there preached in a number of villages and city churches in E. Croatia. Mr Bjom I Finsen MA 1967 Happily to have (last year) been in brief contact with some of your mates from my 1967 graduation - partly through University of Dundee Services. Authored translator and Court Interpreter. Certified Tourist Guide.


Mr Edward K Miller MA (S) 1966 New CD Lowlander released March 2000. Led a tour group from Thailand to Canada May 2000 with a focus on Scottish folk music.

Mrs Susan Harvey née Bone MA 1968 Now much involved with the local community. Convenor of a group seeking to develop and implement a long term vision for the community.

Professor Emeritus Annie T Allsith MB ChB 1968 The Department of Nursing Studies commissioned a Portraiture of Excellence, as an 80th birthday present for this topic.

Dr John C Mason BSc 1968 PhD 1972 Career in Agrochemical/Environmental Health industry spanning research chemistry, strategic planning, marketing and sales and several mergers/take-overs. After 25 years UK-based, is now partway through a year sabbatical to HQ in Germany in Regulatory Affairs.


Mr Norman J Eddleston BSc 1970 Immediately after graduating went to the Antarctic for 2 years with the British Antarctic Survey. Spent less than 1 year back in Edinburgh and has been overseas in Middle East, Indonesia, China etc with oil service company.

Dr Alastair Fraser PhD 1970 January 2000 returned to Edinburgh to live and work, after eight years as Programme Coordinator for the Indonesian-UK Tropical Forest Management Research Project.
World service

Programme, funded by DFID. Mr Robert N Hutchison BSc 1970 Retired from post of Headteacher, Tallara Primary School, Kirkcaldy in November 1999.

Mr John G Park BSc 1970 Back-working with a local authority after a spell with a private civil engineering consultancy.


Mrs Alexandra C Scarborough née Macdonald MA 1970 Graduated MEd in Counselling from the University of Birmingham, December 1999.


Mr Michael D Thomson BSc 1970 Has just taken early retirement after nearly 28 years as assistant with Aberdeen City Council. Retirement is on temporary basis - new directions beckon.

Mr Laura R Fransella née Propper MA 1970 Working full time for the Open University in London advising students on course choice, careers, study skills, special needs and academic and personal problems. Oldest son is studying Chinese at Oxford.

Mr Hugh R Webster BSc 1970 Retired in September 1999 after an extended three year period as Vice-President of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators.

Rev Dr Hugh A Eddie PhD 1971 Professor of Theology, University of York, Australia since 1994.

Mr Andrew J Grant MA (SS) 1971 Retired June 1999. Working as Quantity Auditor for SQMS Scotland. Also employed part-time by Edinburgh Leisure for map reading/hill craft courses and leading hill walks for over 50s.

Dr Eric M Saunderson MB ChB 1971 MSc in General Practice 1996, University of London.

Mrs Carol gin Nicholas née Howarth (SS) 1971 Moved to Australia from Japan. 1999 was a big year: leaving Japan after 23 years (3 years in China); marrying (NZ/Canadian Byron Gilbert), buying old wooden schooner (Schooner Friend) and life is now cruising the idyllic Whitsunday Islands!

Miss Danuta I Bieber MA 1972 Published author in Polish language (Routledge). Currently completing Diploma in Specific Learning Difficulties (dyslexia). Spent 15 years as technical in Polish language (Routledge). Currently moved to Australia from Japan. 1999 was a big year: leaving Japan after 23 years (3 years in China); marrying (NZ/Canadian Byron Gilbert), buying old wooden schooner (Schooner Friend) and life is now cruising the idyllic Whitsunday Islands!

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company funded chair.
Mr Mahdad Saniee MA (SS) 1994 Dip 1989 Won a design award from the American Institute of Architects in 1999 including two Honour Awards and twoMerit Awards from New England Chapter and Connecticut Chapter respectively.
Mrs Fiona L Power née Gibby MA 1982 Dip 1986 Still working and living in London with husband and two daughters aged 2 years and 5 years. Hopes to return to Scotland someday!
Mr Richard G Kay BSc 1982 Involvement in amateur and community theatre led to becoming the Administrative Assistant at the Scottish Community Drama Association and assisting others in the field.
Miss Patricia B Barry LB 1983 Dip 1984 Appointed General Counsel of the Ferring Group, a privately held multinational pharmaceutical group specialising in urology and women’s health.
Mrs Fiona C Fetheridge MA 1987 Son aged 5 and twin daughters aged 4.
Mr Timothy C Stebbing BSc 1983 Now living in Leeds after some years in Germany. Partner with the patent attorney firm of Handlake & Co. Physics training still in everyday use.
Dr Lilian C McNab née Monahan BSc 1987 Currently part-time Chemist and full-time researcher. 1987 onwards has worked with MIB Chemicals, and two Merit Awards (from New England Architects in 1999 including two Honour Awards for work on architectural services within Strathclyde Police Force. Since 1999 has worked with the Home Office as a deputy emergency services personnel in Bosnia, Croatia and E. Timor.
Mr Tanya D Wood MA 1987 After retiring, began working as a psychotherapist in the NHS and private practice in 1999. Has also had eight books on careers published and is the present Chair of the Careers Writers’ Association.
Mr Stephen A McBride BSc (SS) 1984 Married with 2 children, Olwen (8) and Tara (6).
Mrs Victoria F MacDonald née Stadnik BSc 1986 First baby born 31/10/99, Alexandra Margarette, 11 weeks early. Still trying to work from home part time.
Ms Elisabeth A Freer MA 1987 Recently completed doctoral thesis after studying part-time over 6 years at the University of Melbourne. Her main Title was: ‘Industrial Tourism: A Conceptual and Empirical Analysis’. 1990 Working part-time. Two children, Adam (6) and Amelia (3).
Dr James C Greenwood BSc 1987 Recently finished a circumnavigation of the world on horseback. Is writing a book and working in the family relocation business, Stacks Relocation.
Mr Graham D Spawforth BSc 1987 Graham Spawforth and Sara née Lonsdale both graduated from Edinburgh University graduates. Spent six years in the army before going into the teaching profession. Sara qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Graham and Sara were married in Edinburgh in 1992. They have two sons. Katelyn aged 4 and Charlie aged 8 months.
Ms Joanne Murray MA 1986 Now training to be a primary school teacher.
Mr Stuart R Miller BSc 1986 Business Development Manager providing consultancy and services to commercial companies and National Museums agencies throughout the world. Specialising in mapping and GIS areas, recent experience has been in Ethiopia, the Middle East and throughout Europe.
Mr Max B Alexander MA 1986 Currently studying to become chartered accountant at The School of Five Element Acupuncture in London. 1990 Working part-time. In 1992 returned to teaching in the evenings!
Dr Antoinette T Fernandez PhD 1986 Continues with voluntary work, helping on the TESOL programme at the Otago Polytechnic, and in the local community.
Mr James D Curran BSc (M) 1986 MB CHB 1988 Currently living and working in Glasgow.
Dr Hazel J McKeenna BSc 1986 Promoted to full Professor of Mathematics in August 1999 at Utah Valley State College.
Dr Ruth J Scribe née Sutherland BSc 1986 PhD 1992 Working part-time. Two children, Adam (6) and Tara (3).
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Mr James D Curran BSc (M) 1986 MB CHB 1988 Currently living and working in Glasgow.
Dr Hazel J McKeenna BSc 1986 Promoted to full Professor of Mathematics in August 1999 at Utah Valley State College.
Ms Natasha Carver MA 1997 On 1st May 2000 began a six month hike from Mexico to Canada and through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Khazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. Many of these countries represent priorities for job at Visiting Arts which promotes cultural relations as part of Britain’s represent priorities for job at Visiting Arts which promotes cultural relations as part of Britain’s link with the USA.


Mr Nathan A Cunningham MA 1995 Wife Julie is expecting first baby. Currently in software development for computer associates in sunny Southern California. Email: naic@excite.com

Mr Andrew W Heavens MA 1995 Married to Mary Robinson on 30th July 1995. Living in Reading and working for Computer Society.

Mr David Cruz LLB 1995 Currently enrolled at the University of Texas School of Law as a JD candidate (2000). Married Richard Price in 1995.

Mr Luis R Olivera MSc 1993 Completed a food security research project for UNEP in 1996. Now working for Catholic Relief Services as Programme Quality Specialist.

Mr David Cruz LLB 1995 Currently enrolled at the University of Texas School of Law as a JD candidate (2000). Married Richard Price in 1995.

Dr Maria Ramirez-Herrera PhD 1995 New job at the University of California, Los Angeles. Moving to LA in July 2000. Started work as a field geologist in Peru and Bolivia.

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Miss Katherine F McMaster MA 1991 LLB 1994 Now living in Indianapolis, USA and working for a pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly & Co in their in-situ research and field conservation. Lives in central South Dakota.

Miss Melissa A MacAndrew MA 1999 Currently managing a rehabilitation project for food security in South Sudan, having previously worked for 2 and a half years in a similar position in Cambodia.

Mr Sam B Gage BSc 1994 PGCE Cambridge University 1997. Teaching at Marborough College, Wiltshire.

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Mr Sam B Gage BSc 1994 PGCE Cambridge University 1997. Teaching at Marborough College, Wiltshire.


Dr Timothy W Rideout PhD 1994 Together with partner Mark Fairburn, was awarded the Midlothian Enterprise Award 1999 for New Company of the Year (1999). This was for the new Edinburgh Chymap on CO, now available in the LoD Library among other places.


Miss Sarah E Sanchez MSc 1993 Has moved to New Zealand permanently and now runs a captive breeding centre for black stilt (bird similar to the avocet). Moving to Avonland and working at the Regional Conservation Project.


Mr Lesley C Trowbridge MA 1994 Took up the post of fellowship Officer, Royal Society of Edinburgh, in January.

Mr Anil K Shukla MBA 1993 Married to Carmen in 1993. Job with Monarch Plastics Ltd as Manager of Technology and Business Development.

Miss Sarah E Sanchez MSc 1993 Has moved to New Zealand permanently and now runs a captive breeding centre for black stilt (bird similar to the avocet). Moving to Avonland and working at the Regional Conservation Project.


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Mrs Abigail C Smenton née Wilson  BSc 1995 Now has two children - Bella aged two and a half and Max aged eleven months.  
Mr Fergus J Shaw BCom 1995, Moving to Sydney, Australia to be with girlfriend - hopes to find work there.


Mr John A Browne MA (SS) 1995 Began current work placement under usual "Training for Work" arrangements. Placement could last up to six months (although there is no guarantee of full time employment thereafter).

Mr Thomas M Hickie MTh 1995 is currently between jobs and is actively seeking a position in an AIDS service organisation in Chicago. Is also considering an MSW to become a licensed clinical social worker.

Mrs Katherine Durose née De Villiers MA 1995 Worked abroad in France and Germany after graduation. Has now been in London for three years. In May 1999 married Alesio Durose, also of class 1995.

Mr Martin Aovers MA (SS) 1995 Son who was born during final year at University has just turned 5. His name is Callum.

Dr Graeme C Fleming MB ChB 1995 Having completed MRCP is now pursuing General Practice. Actively involved in a local Church.

Mr Andrew D Biggs BSc 1995 Has finished PhD and is currently on a short-term contract as a postdoc at Jodrell Bank. After postdoc we will probably be applying for year or longer postdocs elsewhere.

Dr Marcia McDougall née Van Der Plan MB ChB 1995 Married John B McDougall on 16/5/95.

Mr Caspar A Maczce MA (SS) 1995 Married to Elizabeth Hooper, September 1995, Burnington, Devon.

Miss Rachel Holland BSc 1995 Married Mr Bernard Randall (MSc 1997) in August 2000.


Ms Zennia D Hancock BSc 1995 After working 1 year at South African Embassy in Washington D.C., received fellowship to do PhD at University of South African Embassy in Washington D.C.

Ms Rachel K Duncombe-Anderson MA 1996 Having a lot of time employment thereafter).

Mr Andrew J Cross BCom 1997 Developing websites, especially for Pete Goss, the round-the-world yachtsman. Working with technologies that allow users to follow his attempt: www.teamphilips.com.


Ms Elisabeth J Greenhill MA 1997 Completed a PGCE in Religious Education and is currently working as an English Teacher at George Heriot's School since September 1998.


Ms Gemma K Drury MA 1996 Nearing the end of a year group. Would like to hear from fellow Geography students - really need to think that one over!

Ms Katherine T Frise-Greene MA 1995 Currently in the Royal Signals and is a Signal Officer for 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry.

Ms Morwenna Montgomery née Prowse BSc 1996 Married Ian Montgomery September 1999. Ian is also a graduate of Edinburgh. Completed a PGCE (Secondary) in Geography, September 2000. Would like to hear from fellow Geography Graduates from 1996.

Mr Neil R Symington BSc 1996 Following a year working for The National Galleries of Scotland, pursued a four month internship with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. After returning from the States, worked for the Lighthouse Design Centre in Glasgow and is now doing an MA in Fine Art Administration and Curatorship at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Ms Joanna C Lighthafte BSc 1996 Has just completed an MA in Anthropology at Oxford. Working with the Royal Horticultural Society at their garden at Wisley, Surrey.

Ms Florence Garzabedian MSc 1996 Has had a second child (boy) and still meets fellow ex-students from time to time.

Mr Stian T Alexander BEng 1997 Developing software for a Diploma in Legal Studies.

Mr Paul R Johnston MSc 1995 Son who was born during final year at University has just turned 5. His name is Callum.

Mr Keith Williams LLB 1997 Studying at Scottish Baptist College for one year then hopefully will undertake a Diploma of Theology at a Baptist College. Currently working as a telephone operator.

Mr Nicolas E Davis BD 1999 Studying for a Diploma in Legal Studies. Pursuing a bachelor of law degree.

Mr Stian T Alexander BEng 1997 Developing software for a Diploma in Legal Studies.


Mr Erol Akleman are deeply saddened to announce the passing of his father, who was born in Istanbul and died in London. He will be missed by his family and friends.

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SOMETIMES IT IS the company rather than the meal itself which lives on in the memory. As part of a large English department I often meet interesting people after lectures and seminars, after visiting examinerships, after graduations, or perhaps people who are just passing through. Often the meals are modest affairs, sometimes they are splendid. But the one which remains uppermost in my mind was a very modest affair, indeed I cooked it myself. It was seasoned, however, by the conversation of one of the ornaments of Edinburgh University, indeed of Scotland - David Daiches.

The only other guest was an academic starting out on what has proved to be a distinguished career of copious publication, but he was plainly in shock after hearing of David Daiches' own publishing exploits, in both their variety and their extraordinary extent. Without the slightest boastfulness, Professor Daiches could refer agilely to his travels, his experiences, his historical work, his literary criticism, his ground-breaking Scottish literature writing, his autobiographies, his books on whisky (which brought him far greater material rewards than some of the others), and his books on Edinburgh and Scotland. Quite casually he could drop into the conversation his acquaintance, T.S.Eliot (“Tommy”), and his close proximity in University rooms to Jacob Bronowski whose The Ascent of Man held many of us in thrall at the time.

Indeed Bronowski exemplified many of the qualities which made this such a memorable meal, for although he was not physically there, his bringing-together of so many subjects, which made the TV series such a landmark (my students use it avidly in 2001 when we study literature and technology) typified David Daiches' rich store of conversation.

The other guest was a computer scientist, and the conversation moved easily between his subject and ours. The Dead Sea Scrolls were still recent news, and we were astonished - not for the first time - at the range of David Daiches' erudition in this field too, as befits the son of the Rabbi of Edinburgh.

It was an evening when our conversation seemed to know no limits, no rules. And high spirits were there too, for any diner in such company would inevitably find themselves interested in the wines (including some North American wine, brought back in my luggage, and still a novelty in Edinburgh) and then the whiskies which followed. It is hard now to remember exactly what was said, and when. I know we talked of the Noctes Ambrosianae when Christopher North and the others talked into the night, of Heaven and Hell and everywhere in between.

But, if the purpose of an Arts Faculty in a major university in a capital city is to open the mind, to break down intellectual barriers, to make connections, to share the past and show an avid interest in the future as well as the present, then that dinner exemplified the good fortune of being in Edinburgh in such wonderful company. In our department today we have no shortage of students breaking old barriers and pushing into new areas of theory and history, of science fiction, of Scottish literature which might not have found its way into a university syllabus twenty or even ten years ago. All to the good. And much of it thanks to people whose minds were avidly open to new ideas, to new stimulus, and who were willing to share them with whoever sat across from them at the dinner table. Such dinners happen still, but that was one I will always remember.
Innovation is part of our scenery.

Edinburgh, a cosmopolitan city and one of Europe's most beautiful capitals, is conveniently situated for air, road and rail travel. The city is home to the new Scottish Parliament and many of the country's national institutions and collections.

The 'Festival City' attracts over 2 million visitors each year, not just for its internationally renowned Arts, Fringe, Film, TV and Science Festivals but also for its social, cultural, learning and sporting facilities. The University of Edinburgh, located in the heart of the city has played an integral role in Edinburgh for over 400 years.

With over 4,000 postgraduate students in a total student population of over 20,000, the University of Edinburgh is one of the UK's largest and most wide-ranging in its teaching and research activities, attracting an annual income from external research in excess of £87m. The reputation of the University is firmly based on its achievements in research and the advancement of knowledge.

We welcome postgraduates who will keep alive these great traditions of scholarship.

• The 'Fractal Landscape' above is an example of an innovative computer generated graphic produced in The University of Edinburgh.

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