LEADING THE WAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION
Why wider access is essential for universities
WELCOME TO the summer issue of EDIT. It's an honour – and not a little daunting – to take over the editing of such a successful magazine from Anne McKelvie, who founded the magazine, and Ray Footman, who ably took over the reins after Anne’s death.

Enclosed with this issue you’ll find a brief survey. Please do take a couple of minutes to fill it in and return it. One of the most important things a new editor can do, to my mind, is ask readers what they think of the publication they receive, and what changes – if any – they would like to see.

Over the next couple of months, we’ll be evaluating the feedback we get from our readers, and it may be that you’ll see some changes from the next issue. The most important thing, however, is for us to ensure that EDIT remains valued and read by our alumni and supporters, and that it continues to reflect the same high standards of content and design that has made it the award-winning publication we have today.

Please let us know what you think of your magazine.

Clare Shaw
WORK STARTS ON MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

A MAJOR MILESTONE in the history of scientific and medical research at Edinburgh was reached in March, when work began on a new centre to help tackle common diseases such as coronary heart disease, asthma and painful disorders of menstruation. The University of Edinburgh’s Research Institute for Medical Cell Biology, which will be situated next to the new Royal Infirmary and Medical School at Little France, will provide facilities for inter-disciplinary research in the three key areas of inflammatory, reproductive and cardiovascular biology.

Professor John Savill, Head of the University of Edinburgh’s College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, said: “After so much effort spent on fundraising, which must continue, it is very gratifying that we have at last started the building project for the Research Institute for Medical Cell Biology. In about two years’ time, this site will be home to over 620 researchers working on new ways to prevent, diagnose and manage common diseases such as heart attacks, asthma and menstrual disorders.”

Among the facilities at the Research Institute will be an Imaging Centre containing sophisticated scanning equipment. During the past 30 years, researchers have developed a range of imaging techniques that enable them to see inside the body without the need for surgery. Imaging techniques will soon be able to help doctors diagnose diseases at the earliest stages, contribute to the development of new therapies and cures, and accelerate the research process.

The Institute will cost £52m, of which £45m has already been raised. It will form the centre of a planned £200m biomedical research park. One of the biggest charitable trusts in the UK, the Garfield Weston Foundation, has recently donated £1m to the centre. Catrin Tilley, Director of Development and Alumni, said: “We would like to thank Garfield Weston warmly for this very significant donation, which brings us one step nearer to achieving our campaign target for the Research Institute.”

EDINBURGH MBA RISES UP THE RANKINGS

THE MBA OFFERED by the University of Edinburgh Management School was ranked 15th in Europe and 8th in the UK in this year’s annual global Financial Times Top 100 Business Schools survey.

This result represents an overall improvement on the 2002 rankings, with its European position rising one place and its global position improving by four places.

Among the FT ranking criteria is the value for money that the course represents, calculated by the rate of return the student can enjoy three years after their investment in the course. The University of Edinburgh MBA achieved a figure of 2.8, which placed it in the top 25% of all schools.

This survey, released in January, came shortly after The Economist’s business school survey, which placed the University of Edinburgh Management School 7th in Europe and 4th in the UK.

Simon Earp, Director of the University of Edinburgh Management School said, “We are delighted with the results of this survey which reflect the outstanding quality of our faculty and students. We have 70 members of staff, 315 MBA students and almost 3000 Alumni all over the world and I am sure they will be very proud that the MBA continues to perform so well.”

UNIVERSITY ELECTS NEW RECTOR

IN AN ELECTION held on 7 March, the University of Edinburgh elected Tam Dalyell MP, veteran backbench member of parliament for Linlithgow and Father of the House of Commons, as its new Rector.

“The main formal role of the Rectors of the four ancient Scottish Universities - Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow and St Andrews - is to chair meetings of the Court, the governing body of the University. In addition, the Rector chairs meetings of the General Council in the absence of the Chancellor. The Rectorship is an unpaid post and in the past Rectors have also taken an active part in many aspects of University life during their three-year period of office.

Speaking after the election, the Principal of the University, Professor Timothy O’Shea said:

“I am looking forward to working with Tam Dalyell over the next three years. Tam is a distinguished parliamentarian with great intellectual accomplishments and he has a good understanding of the University and Higher Education issues. Together we will work to raise the profile of the University and address the many different and complex issues facing the Higher Education Sector at this time. The outgoing rector Robin Harper has served the University well for the last three years and his contribution has been greatly appreciated.”

Rachael Hunter, Vice President of the Edinburgh University Student Association also warmly welcomed the appointment:

“The importance behind the position of Rector is that the person is elected by the student body and the University staff. It is good to see that today they have the chance to choose the chair of Court guaranteeing transparency. We are glad a person of such high regard will be taking on the role. We look forward to working with him on many issues.”
EDINBURGH HOSTS ‘BEST EVER’ GAMES

OVER 500 of the country’s leading student sports stars were in Edinburgh from 7-10 April to take part in the 9th British University Games (BUGs).

Organised by the British University Sports Association (BUSA), and involving representative teams from the four home nations, the event embraced five sports – football (men’s and women’s), hockey (men’s and women’s), basketball (men’s and women’s), badminton (mixed team) and netball (women’s). During the four day sporting feast, the athletes and officials made full use of the sports and meeting facilities at the University’s Pleasance and Peffermill sites, utilised Meadowbank Sports Centre and enjoyed the hospitality of Pollock Halls, which housed the Games’ Village.

Jim Ellis, BUSA’s Tournament Director for BUGs ’03, said “Edinburgh’s hosting of BUGs ’03 has taken the event to a new level. The meticulous organisation, superb facilities, outstanding professional support of CSE staff, helpfulness of Sports Union volunteers and the typically warm Scottish welcome, have made BUGs’03 the best ever since the Games started nine years ago. I cannot praise the University’s contribution highly enough.”

The Trustees’ Trophy, awarded to the leading national overall, was presented to English Universities. There was some consolation though to the Scottish Universities Team as they picked up the Spirit of Sport Trophy for finishing in second place.

For full results and more pictures of the Games visit the BUGs website at www.ed.ac.uk/events/bugs/index.html

Next year’s BUGs event will be hosted by the University of Bath.

SPACE CREW SHUTTLE IN TO INSPIRE SCIENCE STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH graduate Dr Piers Sellers spoke engagingly about his experiences on board the Space Shuttle Atlantis when he visited his former university with his fellow astronauts in January. In an illustrated talk to science students and local school pupils, and to the general public the following day, Dr Sellers and his colleagues talked about how they became astronauts, the work of NASA and the international space station. They also gave fascinating insights into their mission in October last year.

One of the key purposes of the first talk was to encourage more students to take up science and engineering courses at Edinburgh. The audience, which included science and engineering students from the University and senior secondary school pupils, were also able to put their own questions to crew members.

At the end of the talk to students, Dr Sellers returned a specially-commissioned University of Edinburgh flag to the University Principal, Professor Timothy O’Shea, and one of Dr Sellers’ former lecturers, Professor John Grace, Head of the School of GeoSciences at the University. Dr Sellers, who received a BSc in Ecological Science from the University of Edinburgh in 1976, paid tribute to the University by taking the flag into space on the mission.

Professor Grahame Bulfield, Head of the College of Science and Engineering, said: “We were delighted with the success of both these events, which were attended by in excess of 700 people, many of whom have an interest in pursuing careers in science and engineering. The space shuttle crew are inspirational communicators, and for anyone who is contemplating studying science and engineering at Edinburgh, it is hard to think of a more impressive role model than Piers Sellers, as he is someone who speaks with great affection of his time as a student here.”

COMMENORATING THE UNION OF THE CROWNS

2003 IS THE 400th anniversary of the union of the Scottish and English Crowns. When Queen Elizabeth of England died without heirs on 24 March 1603, the way was paved for the accession of the Stewart House to the English throne. The Kingdom of Great Britain was formed and Elizabeth’s cousin’s grandson, James VI of Scotland, was crowned James I of England in July 1603. The two warring nations were united in their monarch, but it would be another 100 years before the Parliaments would be united.

To mark the anniversary, the Scottish Executive have approached a number of organisations, including the University and Historic Scotland, to put on exhibitions, theatre, special tours and conferences. BBC Scotland joined in and broadcast a special programme at the end of March.

The University of Edinburgh is delighted to be included and the Scottish Historian Professor Michael Lynch has been sitting on the advisory panel. The University is hosting three lectures in August which will consider the marriage of Margaret Tudor (Henry VIII’s sister) to James IV of Scotland in 1503 which paved the way for the union; the Union of Crowns itself in 1603 and the last lecture will look forward to the consequences of the Union in the rest of the 17th century. The lectures will be given by Dr Jenny Wormald, Professor Michael Lynch and Lord Conrad Russell respectively.

In addition a Conference is being organised for the Schools in the Lothians and Borders to encourage pupils to learn more about these events and about life at the University. This will take place early in the Autumn.

Further details about the programme of events can be found at: http://www.unionofthecrowns.com/
ALUMNUS DONATES £1M FOR NEW CHAIR

A MILLION POUND gift from an Edinburgh graduate has made possible the creation of a new Chair in the University's Management School. George David, Chairman of the Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company, has made a private gift which will enable research into the important area of Family Business.

This is the second philanthropic gift in one year to support a Chair in the School. Last April the £800,000 Dixons Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation was taken up by Professor Richard Harrison. The George David Chair in Family Business will further enhance the Management School’s focus on entrepreneurship and innovation, an area it regards as key to the successful business enterprise of the 21st Century.

Professor Vicki Bruce, Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science, said: “The College is most grateful to the generous donation from our alumnus George David which will enable this important area of Family Business to develop. The new Chair will help build this important area in a research-led academic context within Edinburgh University, linking with other initiatives in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Finance. The Management School is a rapidly growing area of expertise within the University and is a priority for the University as it addresses the needs of contemporary students and society”.

NEW CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE OPENED

A MAJOR NEW building, which will be a focal point of the newly formed University of Edinburgh’s Cancer Research Centre, was opened by HRH The Princess Royal on 6 December.

The £7m state-of-the-art structure, on the Western General Hospital campus, provides facilities for a leading edge £9m research programme, funded by Cancer Research UK, into developments in the treatment of cancer and understanding its genetic control. The custom-built research accommodation adjoins the Edinburgh Cancer Centre where patients from the south east of Scotland receive specialist care and take part in research programmes.

The new 200 square metre building, paid for by the University and Imperial Cancer Research Fund (who merged with the Cancer Research Campaign earlier this year to form Cancer Research UK), was specifically designed for cancer research to expand available laboratory accommodation and enhance teaching and training work space.

EDINBURGH OPENS ITS DOORS

THE UNIVERSITY is once again taking part in Doors Open Day, when significant buildings not normally accessible to the public open their doors for a day, with free admission.

This year’s event takes place on Saturday 27 September. The programme for the day is still being planned, but University buildings available for viewing usually include the Playfair Library, Reid Concert Hall, the Education buildings and Pollock Halls. Tours of Old College will also be offered.

For more details of the final programme, visit the University website at www.ed.ac.uk or see www.doorsopendays.org.uk
The University of Edinburgh's Scholarships Fund has received a welcome boost in the form of a $1 million dollar donation from the Coca-Cola Foundation, aimed at encouraging Eastern European students to study at Edinburgh.

The Coca-Cola Foundation's donation will enable ten students over the next five years to take degree courses in a range of subjects, including medicine, arts and social sciences and science and engineering.

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic excellence to young people whose circumstances would normally prevent them from attending university - particularly those who represent the first generation in their family to study for a degree at university. Young people from Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Russia and the Ukraine will be eligible to apply for the scholarships.

Sandy Allan, President and CEO, Coca-Cola Europe, Eurasia, Middle East, said: “We’re delighted that the Coca Cola Foundation will support this important initiative. I am sure that the students who come to Edinburgh will return with excellent learning and make hugely valuable contributions to the further development of their countries.”

“Scholarships are vital to attracting the best talent to Edinburgh,” said Catrin Tilley, the University’s Director of Development and Alumni. “At present, only a small proportion of highly qualified overseas students, who enquire about studying at Edinburgh, actually take up a place. This generous donation from Coca-Cola will allow a number of young people, who wouldn’t otherwise have had the opportunity, to benefit from an experience that has the potential to have a great impact on their lives and the communities they live in.”

The Coca-Cola donation is a welcome addition to University of Edinburgh’s Scholarships Fund, which gives out over £2.5 million in scholarships to students to each year

This year sees the 125th anniversary of the Edinburgh University Association Football Club. Its foundation in 1878 makes it the second oldest senior football club in the east of Scotland - only Hearts is older - and, throughout its history, the club has participated with distinction in senior, amateur and inter-university competitions. In fact, the club was one of the earliest members of the SFA. This year, at the senior level, the club reached the final of the East of Scotland Qualifying Cup and are Champions of Division One of the East of Scotland League.

University football was and continues to be a major focus for the club - the Scottish Universities programme currently involves 15 institutions, with the Queens’ Park Shield as the premier prize; a trophy Edinburgh has won 24 times, more than any other university. EUAFC’s record at the new British level has been outstanding, champions in 1994, reaching the final in 1996 and semi-finalists in 2000 and 2001.

Today, the club is attempting to move forward vigorously in the areas of funding, administration, coaching and management, developing the increased professionalism that is essential if it is to continue to compete successfully.

To mark the anniversary, a series of special activities will be held, culminating in a reunion dinner on Saturday 20 September 2003 in the University’s Playfair Library. Although a substantial number of former players have been contacted, and many are returning for the celebrations, if you played for the club at any level and have not been contacted, please get in touch through the Sports Union on 0131 650 2346/2347 or email Sports.Union@ed.ac.uk.

www.ed.ac.uk/~euafc

FORGING A NEW PATH

‘PATHWAYS TO the Professions’ is a widening participation initiative to encourage more pupils from state schools to apply to study Law and Medicine. The Project, based in the University's Recruitment and Admissions Liaison Service, fosters links between the University, school students and their families and the professional bodies to encourage more applications from a wider range of socio-economic groups. The pilot phase of the project has been very successful with all 46 state secondary schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians engaged with the project and 350 students registered. Funding for a further two years has been secured from the Sutton Trust in partnership with the University.

The project team would be particularly keen to hear from alumni working in the fields of Law and Medicine who would like to help with the project by attending project events or meeting groups of interested students, many of whom will be the first in their families to attend university.

If you would like more information on Pathways to the Professions or other University of Edinburgh widening participation initiatives, please contact: Kathleen Hood, Project Manager, Widening Participation on 0131 650 4383, email Kathleen.Hood@ed.ac.uk or visit www.rals.ed.ac.uk/widening/pathways_background.html
University of Edinburgh merchandise is now available to buy online, through the website’s new giftshop.

Launched in May, www.gifshop.ed.ac.uk now offers you all the University’s branded clothing, souvenirs and gifts, from fleeces, baseball caps and toys to pewter quaichs, paperweights and mugs. This unique range of merchandise is ideal if you’re looking for a reminder of your time here, or a gift for family and friends.

You can also visit the University’s shop at The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE.

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**Honorary Award for Sheila McLean**

SCOTS BORN academic Professor Sheila McLean, who is respected worldwide as a leader in the study of medical ethics and the law, received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in a ceremony at the McEwan Hall in December.

Professor McLean established the Institute of Law and Ethics in Medicine at the University of Glasgow in 1985 and is still its director. She serves on a number of national and international committees, is frequently consulted by Government on medico-legal matters, and has published extensively in the area of medical law.

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**Visit of Thich Nhat Hanh**

THE WORLD-RENOWNED Zen Monk, author and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh will be visiting Edinburgh in June of this year. As part of his trip, he will give a talk at the University’s McEwan Hall on Tuesday 24 June, on “Looking Deeply in the Present”. The talk will start with chanting by the monks and nuns of the Community of Interbeing.

Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Martin Luther King Jnr, Thich Nhat Hanh has published over 100 titles and his influential teachings include the practice of “mindfulness”.

Tickets for the event are available from the Usher Hall, Assembly Rooms or Queens Hall box offices in Edinburgh, or from 0131 228 1155.

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**Reunion**

Sounds like fun! And that’s what reunions should be – enjoyable, individual, memorable. But like all successful meetings there’s a great deal of planning and organisation involved, and that’s where we come in.

At the Peebles Hydro we’ve a wealth of experience in working with universities, arranging and holding a variety of reunions. This enables us to provide you with plenty of ideas, take a lot of the burden of organisation off your shoulders, and ensure everything is ‘alright on the night’. In fact, we can take care of all the details from programmes and place cards to menus and themed events.

On top of that, the Hydro is the perfect venue – a stunning Borders location and a range of leisure facilities that has something for everyone.

If you’re planning a reunion why not give us a ring? We’ll be delighted to use all our experience to ensure your event is something just that little bit special, and also less work for you.

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**Peebles Hotel Hydro**

COMFORT, SERVICE, LEISURE AND HEALTH FACILITIES
A NEW BOOK on the University’s of Edinburgh’s history, written by three of the institution’s eminent historians, is being published by Edinburgh University Press this summer.

The University of Edinburgh: An Illustrated History covers the history of the University since its origins in the late sixteenth century, covering the Reformation, the Enlightenment (in which the University played a central role), the introduction to the syllabus of science and medicine, and the changing relationship between the University on the one hand and the city, the nation, the UK and Europe on the other.

The authors of the book are: Robert D. Anderson, Professor of Modern History; Michael Lynch; Sir William Fraser, Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography, and Nicholas Phillipson, Reader in Modern History, University of Edinburgh.

The title can be ordered direct from: Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN; tel: 01235 465500; email direct.order@marston.co.uk

AS PART of the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, the University Festival Lecture in August will be given by Alfred Brendel. The world famous pianist will talk about Beethoven’s music, demonstrating his ideas with musical illustrations.

The lecture will be held on Sunday 24 August 2003 in Edinburgh's Usher Hall; entry is free, by ticket only. For more information, visit www.eif.co.uk or call 0131 473 2000.

BURNS RECORDINGS HIT THE RIGHT NOTE

THE FIRST ever complete recording of the songs of Robert Burns, completed and launched in January 2003, has been accomplished by Edinburgh alumnus Dr Fred Freeman.

The monumental project has been seven and a half years in the making and has drawn upon an extensive range of Scotland’s finest folk musicians. Writing about his project, Dr Freeman says that, “the cultural, social and political significance of the project is far reaching. The approach to Burns (and to his music) is wholly unique, setting him in a context which links together each region of the country, Scotland and Europe, and European Scotland with the world.”

The Complete Songs of Robert Burns – 368 in all – is delivered in the form of 12 volumes and features musicians such as members of Capercaillie, Battlefield Band, Malinky, Deaf Sheperd, Tannahill Weavers and many more from every region of Scotland.

The recordings have enjoyed wide acclaim and concert tours abroad – sponsored by the British Council – have included Poland, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands and the USA.

For more information on the recordings, visit www.linnrecords.com

BRENDEL’S WORDS AND MUSIC

NEW TITLE HIGHLIGHTS UNIVERSITY HISTORY
I think today’s world offers unprecedented opportunities for students... My advice would be to work hard, broaden your experiences and create your own opportunities.
From a childhood spent in Gorgie, Edinburgh, you became the Chairman and CEO of the Ford Motor Company and now you’ve become Chairman of ICI - how did you manage to achieve so much?

One of the advantages I have had was a good secondary education from Boroughmuir School. Then, I guess it has been a combination of hard work and being willing to take opportunities when they came up. When I had the chance to move to the United States in 1969 I jumped at it. Here I found a culture and environment that suited me - there were plenty of opportunities if you were prepared for hard work and enjoyed taking risks.

Did you plan your career, or did it just happen?

Well if you mean did I plan to end up as the Chairman and CEO of Ford Motor Company the answer is no, I didn’t. But I was filled with enthusiasm and determination to make things happen – being in the United States at the end of the 1960s broadened the field of opportunity.

Do people treat you differently since you received your peerage?

No, not in the least. I was, of course, very pleased to be honoured in this way – but I have found it makes little difference to my everyday life.

You’re also Chairman of The University of Edinburgh Fundraising Campaign Board. Why and how did you first become involved with The University of Edinburgh?

As someone growing up in Edinburgh, I have always been aware of the University. Indeed I would love to have had the opportunity to study there. However, my life went down a different path and I first became involved with the University as a Visiting Professor for the Management School and establishing a research database facility for the MBA programme. I very much enjoyed my involvement with the School, particularly the interaction with the students.

What do you hope the Fundraising Campaign will achieve?

The Fundraising Campaign aims to change the way we think about supporting universities in the UK. I have seen at first hand the enormous benefit that the support of alumni and philanthropic giving has had on American higher education – not just the Ivy League universities but also on the state-funded institutions. I would hope the Edinburgh Campaign will not only achieve its immediate goals of creating new opportunities for teaching and research and to create a scholarship programme – but that it will create a willingness and eagerness to support the University in the longer term.

Do you have any advice for students at the University now?

I think today’s world offers unprecedented opportunities for students - there are opportunities to travel, to work in different cultures and businesses. My advice would be to work hard, broaden your experiences and create your own opportunities.

With so much going on, you must need to unwind sometimes. How do you like to get away from it all?

My family has a cabin in the Canadian back country – where I disappear away from phones, emails and meetings. It’s a place where I can combine the joys of hard physical work and catch up on the books I’ve put aside for quiet time.
AS CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS POLICY MAKE THE HEADLINES, JOURNALIST AND BROADCASTER RUTH WISHART GIVES HER THOUGHTS ON “LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD”.

INTELLIGENCE MAY BE A LOTTERY BUT LEAVE POST CODES OUT OF IT

LUCKILY FOR HIM, the prime minister’s son was not one of the 33,000 disappointed teenagers who missed out on a place at Bristol University last year. Instead young Euan was in the less-than-10% of applicants who found a berth at an increasingly popular campus, and one of the 39% who went there from the non-state sector.
Is it merely a matter of grades, or is the measure of true academic potential rather more complex than that?

These statistics would appear to have gone AWOL from the radar screens of the headmasters and headmistresses of England’s green and pleasant private schools, since they have just grandly announced a proposed boycott of Bristol on the grounds that it is favouring the nation’s plebs over their own high-fliers. I imagine the admissions office there will somehow contain its disappointment, not least since any prospective students worth their salt will go where their own instincts lead them rather than where the headline dictates.

This petulant attempt to blackmail the university establishment comes at a confusing time for our educational friends in the south. This age is no stranger to ministerial U-turns, but English higher education minister Margaret Hodge did a policy volte-face so quickly last month that you imagine the Commons medics had to administer treatment for vertigo.

Ms Hodge was musing on how she might set targets to address the stubborn gap between those who reached university from the higher income groups and those from working class homes. Scarcely was the ink dry on the reporter’s notebook, when she was forced by her boss, Charles Clarke, to indicate that the department had, in fact, no such hard-and-fast plans. Indeed, the prime minister was moved to note that the government was backing decisions made on merit, not on class origins. How times have changed. How proudly did Neil Kinnock boast at one party conference of being the first generation of his family to attend a university.

The question, of course, is how you define merit. Is it merely a matter of grades, or is the measure of true academic potential rather more complex than that? There are several things to say about grades as a tool. One is that pupils with access to extra tuition, cramming, and the sundry other devices some parents can afford to employ to enhance their children’s performance will not unnaturally tend to perform better in school exams. I take no issue on this with the parents concerned. Some make huge sacrifices to give their children the best shot, but satisfactory exam results are not in themselves an accurate indicator of future performance, as a recent study conducted by Warwick University confirmed. Its data suggested that private school students actually had a smaller chance of a good degree than a state school student with the same entry qualifications. The researchers thought one reason for this was that all the extra effort put into getting the pupils from the independent schools decent grades might actually conceal the fact that they were less naturally gifted.

That piece of research found an echo in an analysis by the Higher Education Funding Council in England, whose data also revealed state school students outperforming same-grades entrants from private schools.

Meanwhile, the debate in Scotland has raged no less fiercely, most especially in the weeks following Edinburgh University’s declaration of a new admissions policy. To read some of the press coverage of this, you might imagine that seat of learning had given up taking the cream of the A level and advanced Highers crop in favour of scooping up disorientated young persons in the Grassmarket at three in the morning and offering them a place contingent only on possession of a non-push offer.

In fact, its literature makes abundantly clear that it is working with the grain of that recent research and looking for applications which also reflect strong motivation to succeed, personal resourcefulness, and suitability for the programme. It also, very fairly in my view, will not take account of whether the applicant has had unwarranted disruption to their studies, or comes from a school with no particular tradition of sending its brightest and best on to higher learning opportunities. It’s a formula which has worked well already for Edinburgh’s veterinary and medical schools. There’s also the simmering, almost annual, row about an over-abundance of English students, many of them from the private sector. It would, of course, be iniquitous to suggest that a high preponderance of that intake has a greater interest in the latest cocktails than the most recent research, even if the impression given in some capital watering holes is of the university experience being a vaguely academic variation on Club 18-30.

One little-known fact which fell into my ken last week, from an absolutely impeccable source, is that Glasgow University actually has more students from down south than does Edinburgh, by a factor of some 5%. It’s just that fewer of them have Hooray Henry, and Lucinda on their passports.

It would be naive not to observe that Edinburgh, in common with all other higher-education outposts in Scotland, is anxious to chime with executive policy - otherwise those cuddly persons in the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council might come up with some even more fiery hoops to jump through before money is released. It seems to me that the core philosophy our universities is being asked to reflect is nothing more or less than social justice. People who are born poor and raised in poverty are not intrinsically dim. People who are born rich and stay that way are not naturally smarter. Intelligence may be a lottery but it is not a post-code one.

Iain Gray, the minister for lifelong learning, recognised that in his letter of guidance to SHEFC last December, pointing out that despite the best efforts to date there was still a ‘stubbornly’ low level of student entrants from what the jargon persists in calling social classes four and five. In addressing that issue by a mild dose of positive discrimination, what we are doing is not jettisoning the excellent in favour of the mediocre, but realising that we have been guilty of a wanton and scandalous waste of young intelligent Scots from less supported backgrounds by failing to give them the chance to realise their full potential. Their loss is also our country’s.

There is an ironic corollary to all of this. While we fail to put lots of talented youngsters from diverse backgrounds on to the university flight path - in a way the late, lamented grants sought to do - we are also hell-bent on sending some people there for whom the experience is not going to be particularly beneficial. If everyone winds up with a degree it will hardly help an employer sort out the wheat from the chaff. Time perhaps to reflect more seriously which kind of intelligence is the mother of original thought.

Courtesy Of The Herald, © Newsquest Media Group.
A statement of the University of Edinburgh’s admissions policy is available at www.ed.ac.uk/news/admissions.html
From the Scottish Highlands to the rainforests of Australia, the donations of former students really make a difference to staff, students and the wider community, as Jennifer Trueband explains.

Graduates give back

From keeping the Gaelic language alive to helping Australia’s Aboriginal communities make a living from eco-tourism, there’s no limit to what the University of Edinburgh’s former students are helping to achieve.

Through the Alumni Fund, which is a key element of The Edinburgh Campaign, the University’s major fund-raising initiative, both students and academics are supported in the pursuit of their passions, while enhancing the University’s reputation for research.

Donations to the fund come from all over the world – from 4,035 people in 2002 alone. Over the past decade, the fund has given more than £1.2 million to support projects of individual students and academics. The past five years have seen an additional £508,000 awarded for academic scholarships. At the same time, £345,000 has been spent on research activities in arts, humanities and social sciences; £215,000 has been invested in teaching initiatives across the campus, and more than £800,000 has been given for infrastructure projects, such as the Hospital for Small Animals.

Catrin Tilley, director of Development and Alumni, says gifts from alumni have a major impact, particularly for individual students and staff.

“The Alumni Fund is really a way for individuals to make regular donations which benefit every part of the University,” she explains. “It’s an annual fund, which means we encourage people to make contributions every year and we spend the money in that year.”

Each term, around 30 Small Project Grants of up to £5,000 are given out to academics or students. They are massively oversubscribed with around 130 applications a time.

Lorna Weatherstone, 22, who is in her final year studying for an MA in social anthropology with development, was one of last year’s Small Project Grant recipients.

She received £350 which helped her to spend four months in Australia last summer, working with a non-governmental organisation to assist indigenous communities to explore opportunities in eco-tourism. The grant helped with her travel costs as she journeyed across the country to meet communities, find out what they wanted to do and help them to forge links with appropriate groups and people.

“Some places, like Fraser Island, off the coast of Queensland – which is unusual because it is sandy, but has rainforest in the middle – are quite touristy already. But the aboriginal people tended to want to go for natural options, to promote their culture and to benefit from the land without exploiting it,” she says.

As a result of her time there, Lorna wrote a report on obstacles and opportunities for indigenous tourism in World Heritage Areas, which has now been distributed to the communities and world heritage authorities she worked with, and to other relevant people. Importantly, the project has led to her decision to follow a career in the same area.

“It was a great experience. I was brought up in Australia but last summer I saw much more of the country than I had in my years of growing up there. The grant certainly helped.”

Closer to home, Dr Gert-Jan Pepping, a lecturer and researcher in physical education, sport and leisure studies, has been making good use of a £4,500 grant for a project to develop tools to identify children with movement difficulty.

“Our aim is to develop better methods of diagnosis and eventually find ways to improve these children’s coordination,” he says. The money from the Alumni Fund has enabled him to get the project off the ground – which in turn should help as he seeks other funding to move it on.

Relevance to the local community is one element taken into consideration when decisions are made about how the Alumni Fund should be deployed.
Ensuring that Gaelic remains a living language has become a hot political topic, particularly since the Scottish Parliament came into being in 1999. But without good information on the population’s use of the language, it’s hard for policy-makers to decide how best to encourage it.

Before the union of the crowns in 1603, around half the people in Scotland spoke Gaelic. Today the figure is just over one per cent. But not all of these Gaelic speakers are in the Highlands and Islands or even on the west coast. For example, in Edinburgh, the bastion of lowland Scotland, one in a hundred people are believed to speak Gaelic to a lesser or greater extent.

Dr Wilson McLeod, a lecturer in Celtic and Scottish studies, won a £900 Small Project Grant to investigate Gaelic in the capital. “We’re trying to find out about the use of Gaelic in social, recreational and work settings,” he says. “We want to be able to supply policy makers with ideas of how to make the language sustainable.”

He wants to discover where and how much Gaelic is spoken in the city – and not just access those who are members of special societies or who send their children to the Edinburgh primary school where they can be taught in the language. “Some people are easier to find than others because they are part of what you might call the Gaelic community. We’re trying to track down everyone who uses the language,” he says.

Dr McLeod himself is an American who first took to Gaelic as an undergraduate in Aberdeen before moving to Edinburgh as a postgraduate. How do Scots like learning Gaelic from a man from Boston? “It’s difficult enough from anyone so you might as well buckle down and learn the genitive case,” he laughs.

For more information on the University’s Alumni Fund, visit the website: www.dev.ed.ac.uk

Over the past decade, the fund has given more than £12 million to support projects of individual students and academics.
OBJECT LESSONS
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
7 June - 19 July

A chance to view the treasures of the University’s Collections and a demonstration of their enduring place in the intellectual and imaginative life of the University. Including fine art artefacts, design objects, rare manuscripts and the University’s internationally renowned collection of early keyboard instruments, among a host of others. For the first time ever, the University brings together its collections, to demonstrate their role, and the role of collecting, in research, and to explore the threads of intellectual development that link objects over time. See also Object Lessons feature on page 22.

OBJECT LESSONS EVENTS

LECTURES
THE LESSON OF OBJECT LESSONS
Professor Duncan Macmillan 6 June at 4pm

FACE AND IDENTITY
Professor Vicki Bruce 2 July at 6pm

LUNCHTIME TALKS all at 1pm
11 June JOY OF DISCOVERY
University science communicators explore the collections
25 June LIBRARY COLLECTIONS & THEIR DONORS
Peter Freshwater discusses manuscripts and rare books
9 July A RUSSELL COLLECTION HARPSCITHORD AND ANOTHER’S LID
Dr Grant O’Brian of the music faculty will discuss the exhibition’s rare musical instruments

A MIDSUMMER’S CONCERT
21 June at 7pm in the Red Gallery. Tickets £15.00. Bach and Handel played on the University’s world famous double manual harpsichord by Dr John Kitchen of the Historical Music Faculty.

NUTS AND BOLTS
25 June at 6pm. The exhibition designer of Object Lessons, will give a behind the scenes insight into the fabrication of the exhibition.

CHILDREN’S ART DAY
3 July. Children’s activities exploring objects in the exhibition.
Sessions at 10am, 12 noon, 3pm & 4pm
The event will continue all day, booking is essential.

Unless otherwise stated, events are free. For further information or to book tickets for the Midsummer’s concert, please contact the Gallery.
EDIT 2

JOHN MCLEAN
14 November – 13 December 2003
New abstract works by one of Britain’s foremost abstract painters.

ANDREW MACKENZIE
14 November – 13 December 2003

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL EXHIBITION
KIEKO MUKAIDE
SPIRIT OF PLACE
9 August - 13 September 2003
Keiko Mukaide’s work is informed by ancient principles of geomancy – an art that analyses the subtle earth energies that ebb and flow throughout the landscape, assisting and enhancing a relationship with spirit and place.

For the Festival exhibition, Mukaide will create a commissioned three-dimensional structure that will hang from the eight-metre Gallery atrium. The structure will be created of glass, titanium and plastic and will be supported by a sound work referring to location – East, West, North and South.

This major Lottery-funded project will offer an opportunity to see new work from Mukaide.

EVENTS
KIEKO MUKAIDE IN CONVERSATION
13 August
EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY TALK
20 August
SCOTTISH GEOMANCY GROUP WORKSHOP
3 September

FRANCES WALKER
26 September - 1 November
Scottish painter Frances Walker will show a new series of works exploring the Scottish landscape.

FRANCES WALKER
COASTAL GLIMPSES
Oil on canvas, 1993

JOHN MCLEAN
HARBOUR 2002
Acrylic on canvas
214.5 x 157 cms

JOHN MCLEAN
26 September – 1 November
New abstract works by one of Britain’s foremost abstract painters.

CLIVE & MARIANNE GREATED
26 September – 1 November

KEIKO MUKIADE
LUCID IN THE SKY
Stainless steel, wire and glass fragments, 2002

FRANCES WALKER
LUCID IN THE SKY
Stainless steel, wire and glass fragments, 2002

TALBOT RICE GALLERY
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
OLD COLLEGE, SOUTH BRIDGE
EDINBURGH, EH8 9YL

Gallery opening hours Tues - Sat 10 - 5pm. Admission free.

Tel: 0131 650 2211 / email: info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk / www.trg.ed.ac.uk

There is a lift with wheelchair access to both floors of the White Gallery.
The story of human achievement is a roll call of great names, but there are not many institutions that can claim a place alongside the men and women whose names appear there. The University of Edinburgh certainly can make that claim, however. It can do so too, not for occasional moments of distinction, but for a steady history of achievement over centuries. This was shaped by the University’s adoption early on of the principles and methods of empirical thought and adapting its teaching methods accordingly. From this developed its pre-eminence, and the pre-eminence of those connected with it, in medicine and in other branches of empirical science in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The work that has continued in these areas and in quite new areas that have evolved from them has extended that tradition to the present day and so too will shape the future.

Empirical thought depends on the evidence of experience and so on the practical study of the observed world. To that end, the collection of objects, their study and classification were an integral part of research and of teaching which, from an early date, came increasingly to be based on practical experience in science and in medicine. For these reasons, museums and collections developed throughout the University – some of them of enormous scientific importance. Some of these were transitory, reflecting the research needs of the moment, while others proved more permanent. Indeed, 150 years ago, part of the University’s scientific collections was given to the newly founded museum in Chambers Street to lay the foundations of what was to become the Royal Museum of Scotland.

Coming up in June this year is a major exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery – ‘Object Lessons: Highlights from the Collections of Edinburgh University’ will bring together a selection of treasures from various collections that the University still holds. These range across the disciplines. The musical collections held in the Reid School and St Cecilia’s Hall are of international importance, for instance. The University also has a major portrait collection, the origins of which go back to the foundation of the institution in the late sixteenth century and which is the visible record of the great individuals who have made the institution what it is. There are also important collections in medicine, geology and various branches of the sciences, while all sorts of other historically significant objects are held in different parts of the institution. In addition to all this, the exhibition will draw on the rich holdings of the University Library’s Special Collections.

The exhibition will explore some of the threads of intellectual development that link objects and which reflect continuous lines of thought that have evolved over centuries, connecting the past with preoccupations that are still current today. In particular, the objects assembled will reflect a tradition of research in which visual analysis and the visual projection of ideas have been central for a very long time. Altogether the exhibition will show the quality and range of the University Collections and their continuing value as tools for research. It will also demonstrate their importance to the wider public as a means of access to the University’s history and its current activity, and the links between these things.

The objects in the exhibition will be of such quality that they will naturally engage public interest and will also demonstrate how the collections can bring prestige to the institution. Names like David Hume, James Hutton, Joseph Black, Charles Darwin, Joseph Lister and James Young Simpson belong among the very greatest of those who have contributed to human understanding of the world and also to the amelioration of the human condition. But the achievement of many others will be celebrated here too: Alexander Munro, who effectively founded the Medical Faculty, and Sophia Jex Blake, who overcame enormous opposition to become its first woman graduate; Charles Bell, who uncovered the working of the nervous system; James Clerk Maxwell, ranked alongside Newton and Einstein in the history of physics; James Cosser Ewart, a pioneer of modern genetics, and John Crofton, who contributed so much to the elimination of TB in the modern world. Nor will the exhibition focus only on the past. It will bring the story up to date – right up to Dolly the Sheep, in fact – to illustrate some of the current cutting edge research which builds on this long tradition and will no doubt continue to do so.
James Cossar Ewart (1851-1933) was a zoologist. A fellow of the Royal Society, he carried out experimental work on the embryonic development of the horse and conducted numerous experiments on his estate - the so-called Penicuick Experiments - on the hybridisation of zebras and horses. He was a pioneer in domestic animal improvement by selective breeding and in the study of animal reproduction. It was largely due to his presence in Edinburgh that the University was chosen as the site for an institute of Animal Genetics, one of the first such in the world. This decision was later to have a major impact on the development of Edinburgh as a major centre of biological research and teaching.

Artificial Pneumothorax
Apparatus
Developed by John Crofton for collapsing the lungs in the treatment of Tuberculosis
Lothian Health Services Archive, Object Collection, late 19th century

Photograph of a foal with its mother, one of the results of James Cossar Ewart’s famous genetic experiments at the turn of the century
James Cossar Ewart (1851-1933) was a zoologist. A fellow of the Royal Society, he carried out experimental work on the embryonic development of the horse and conducted numerous experiments on his estate - the so-called Penicuick Experiments - on the hybridisation of zebras and horses. He was a pioneer in domestic animal improvement by selective breeding and in the study of animal reproduction. It was largely due to his presence in Edinburgh that the University was chosen as the site for an institute of Animal Genetics, one of the first such in the world. This decision was later to have a major impact on the development of Edinburgh as a major centre of biological research and teaching.

Page from the illuminated manuscript, St Catherine’s Book of Hours, 15th century
It is possible to distinguish the work of three artists. The earliest, and the most primitive, was responsible for eleven initials depicting the Passion of Christ. The second worked in the Gothic Style and the third in a more angular mode of about 1430. A “book of hours” contains portions of the daily church services, together with penitential psalms and other material for private devotion. The wording of the services follows the version introduced into England in the late 12th century known as “the Use of Sarum”. This book was given to the Library in 1679.
Framed penicillin mould, presented to the University by Alexander Fleming, on the occasion of his Rectorial address in 1952. Inscribed on the reverse:
“The mould that makes Penicillin
To the S.R.C. in memory of the Rectorial
Alexander Fleming 1952”

Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was one of the great figures of 20th century medicine. Not only did he discover the antibiotic powers of penicillin, for which he shared the Nobel Prize, but he was the first to use anti-typhoid vaccines on human beings and pioneered the use of salvarsan for syphilis. He was born and brought up in Ayrshire, spent five years as a shipping clerk, and then became a medical student at St Mary’s Hospital, Paddington, where his prowess in the college rifle team, rather than his undoubted brilliance, first brought him to the attention of the professor running the bacteriological laboratory. He remained at St Mary’s for the rest of his career apart from service in the First World War.

Photograph entitled
“Anaesthesia at the age of 17”
Written on the reverse: “The first child to be born while the mother was under the influence of chloroform, the mother attended by Sir J. Y. Simpson”

The youngest son of a baker from Bathgate, West Lothian, James Young Simpson (1811-70) qualified M.D. at Edinburgh at the age of 20 and was appointed to the chair of obstetrics and gynaecology eight years later. Through his pioneering use of anaesthetics in childbirth, the advances he made in gynaecology, and his championship of hospital reform, he became one of the most revered figures in the history of medicine. Simpson first anaesthetised a patient in January 1847, using ether, but subsequently experimented on himself and his assistants in search of a more satisfactory anaesthetic. A trial of chloroform was made on 4 November 1847 when the experimentalist “proved its efficacy by simultaneously falling insensible below the table”.

Though it is now hard to believe, the use of chloroform in childbirth was widely attacked as irreverent: in the Book of Genesis, God punishes Eve with the words “in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children”. Simpson took on the objectors on their own ground, pointing out that the Hebrew word for “sorrow” can also mean “labour”. He added that as God had thought it necessary to send Adam into a deep sleep before removing his rib, He would certainly not disapprove of a similar measure for women in childbirth.

In the end, it was Queen Victoria who paved the way for the general acceptance of chloroform, making use of it at the birth of Prince Leopold in 1853.

The only known example of a 19th century contrabass serpent
Dr Raymond Parks playing an unusual instrument, the serpent, dating from 1840 and made in Huddersfield. This is a very rare contrabass serpent – sometimes call “the anaconda” – made of sycamore wood covered in leather and canvas, with brass keys, valves and decoration. From the Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments, kindly lent by Mr A. Myres.
Did you know that we have almost 100,000 people registered as alumni of The University of Edinburgh? In some cases, classes from as far back as the early 1940s are still organising events. But it is all too easy to lose contact in the first few years after graduation, so why not consider organising a reunion? Development & Alumni can provide advice on how to get your fellow alumni together for an unforgettable event. For a copy of our Guidelines on Organising a Reunion, simply get in touch with us using the contact details on page xx.

www.dev.ed.ac.uk/events_reunions.htm

REUNIONS IN 2003

1958 MB ChB
28-29th September 2003, Dunkeld House Hotel
Contact: Hugh Murray, 41 Oxgangs Road, Edinburgh, EH10 7BE
Tel: 0131 445 1965. Email: murray.hm@virgin.net
Web site: www.orgwebs.net/ue58

1960 MB ChB (Mini-Reunion)
Early September 2003, BC, Canada
Contact: Dr Pat James, #20, 951 Homewood Road, Campbell River, BC, V9W 3N7, Canada
Email: annikedep@telus.net

1961 MB ChB
7-10 September 2003, Carmel, CA, USA
Contact: Dr A G S Philip, 25710 Deerfield Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 5QT
Email: d.pyper@blueyonder.co.uk

1963 MB ChB
5-7 September 2003, Peebles Hydro
Contact: Professor J ohn Hunter, Leewood, Rosslyn Castle, Roslin, Midlothian, EH22 1JG
Tel: 0131 440 2181
Email: jaa.hunter@virgin.net

1963 BDS
12-14 September 2003, Peebles Hydro
Contact: Dr E M Mathewson, 40 Fountainhall Road, Aberdeen, AB15 4DT or Mr R J W Stevenson OBE, Broomknowe, Rhu, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, G84 8NH

1970 MB ChB
3-5 October 2003, Dunkeld House Hotel
Contact: Professor Gerry Fowkes, Wolfson Unit for Prevention of Peripheral Vascular Diseases, Public Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG
Tel: 0131 650 3220

1973 BDS
20-21 June 2003, Point Hotel, Edinburgh
Contact: Mr David Torgersen, Drumalbyn, Highlandman, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 3QL

1973 MB ChB
7-8 November 2003, Crown Plaza, Edinburgh
Contact: Dr Diana Holton, c/o Newton Port Surgery, Haddington, East Lothian, EH14 3NF

1978 MB ChB
5-7 September 2003, Dunkeld House Hotel
Contact: Dr Vicki Clark, 10 Glebe Street, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1J G

1983 MA(SS) Geography
Contact: Mr David R Pyper, 83 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 5QT
Email: d.pyper@blueyonder.co.uk

1983 MB ChB
7-8 November 2003, Dunkeld House Hotel
Contact: Dr Gillian Irvine, Feo’Ran, Craig Na Gower Avenue, Aviemore, Invernesshire, PH22 1AW

1987 BSc Civil Engineering
September / October 2003
Contact: J ohn Douglas, 38a Inverleith Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5QB
Email: j.douglas@lett-it-be-thus.com or Mr Barry White Email: Barry.White@partnershipsuk.org.uk

1991/92 (Hons) BSc Social Sciences - Nursing
Date: Saturday 6th September 2003
Venue: Edinburgh
Contact: Ms Anne Sheridan (email: annessheridan@onetel.com) or Ms Victoria Traynor (email: vtracey@hotmail.com)

1993 MBA Reunion
Date: 13-15 June 2003
Venue: Management School & City Chambers, Edinburgh
Contact: Mr Alan MacRae, Craigeroan, Friarsbrae, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 6BQ
Email: alan.macrae@itsbsaf.co.uk or Ms Carol Creech email: ctcreech@optonline.net

1998 MBA (Full-Time) Reunion
Date: Friday 22nd August - Sunday 24th August 2003 Venue: The Management School, Edinburgh
“Welcoming Wine & Cheese Event” at The Management School on Friday 22nd August - £5 per head; Saturday “brunch” and a hike on Arthur’s Seat (weather permitting)
Contact: Mr Brandon P Simmons, 5901 Marden Lane, Oakland, CA 94611, USA
Email: bpsimmons@earthlink.net

REUNIONS IN 2004

1959 Chemistry
Late September 2004, Edinburgh
Contact: Dr J David R Vass, Guschet Neuk, 33 Ochlochy Park, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0DX

1959 MB ChB
2004, Banff, Canada
Contact: Dr lain Weston, 521 1000th Street, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, S9A 0T3, Canada
Email: ilweston@sk.sympatico.ca

1967-80 Geology Graduates Reunion 35(ish)th Anniversary
Summer 2004, Edinburgh, dates and venues tbc
Daily events, based on the successful format of the 20th and 30th anniversary reunions, will include: Thursday: Convivial Departmental Reception, Tours, etc. Friday: Extravagant Dinner. Saturday: Geological Field Excursion and Pub Evening. Reunionists will comprise geology graduates of 1968 to 1970, historically concurrent post-graduate students, academic and technical staff, and friends of all of these. The previous reunion events attracted 70 of our cohort. It you are interested in joining us, please contact the previous organisers by email.
Contact: John Langlands, email: john@langlands.org.uk or Colin Graham, Email: Colin.Graham@glg.ed.ac.uk
Wanted: New organisers for the 2004 event. Would Edinburgh-based volunteers please contact J ohn Langlands via email for details of the proposed handover?

1974 MB ChB
2-4 April 2004, Edinburgh & Dunkeld House Hotel
Contact: Dr Roger Simmons, Tigh an Lighiche, Bunnrannoch Place, Kinloch Rannoch, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5PZ
Email: roger.simmons1@virgin.net

ALUMNI CLUBS & GROUPS
www.dev.ed.ac.uk/clubs_organisati ons.htm

NEW CLUBS
Friends of Bedlam/EU Dramsoc/EU Theatre Company
Following our Edinburgh Launch in March, the new alumni association for friends of Edinburgh University Theatre Company had its official launch in London on 24th May. Information on how to join Friends of Bedlam can be found at www.bedlamites.co.uk

Belgium
An enthusiastic group of University of Edinburgh alumni are currently working to set up an alumni club in Belgium. If you are living in Belgium and would like to find out more, please contact: ggoldberg@clan-public-affairs.be

Italy
With over 300 Edinburgh alumni in Italy, the recently formed Edinburgh University Alumni Association of Italy is primarily an informal, event-based organisation with events organised locally by a volunteer member. Events will be held all over the country, relying on members to come up with the ideas and volunteer their time. Contact: J ohn Murphy jomurphy@tin.it

Toronto
There are 325 Edinburgh University graduates in the Toronto area with alumni spanning seventy years: from a BMus alumna of 1932, to two 2002 alumni who graduated BCom and BVM&S respectively. Following a recent visit to Toronto by J oanna Storrar, Development Director (Americas), Paul Bradley and J ames Hunter canvassed Toronto-based Edinburgh alumni, and identified a steering committee to organise the Edinburgh Club of Toronto (ECOT). The first meeting of the ECOT steering committee was held on 1 April, 2003. An initial social event is planned for 21 June 2003, to coincide with Alban Heruin (Summer Solstice). For more information, Toronto-based Edinburgh alumni are invited to contact: Paul Bradley BSc 1982: pbradley@dundeesecurities.com (co-chair) or J ames Hunter MA 1973: jameshunter@kpmg.ca (co-chair)
New Zealand: Edinburgh Alumni Association of Italy

Langour in the Langhe It was little short of miraculous: bright sunshine in the Alba area after four days of solid rain. Just for us, it seemed. Fourteen EUAI members, partners and kids met on 17 November at the Castello di Grinzane Cavour, reckoned by many to be Piedmont’s most beautiful castle. A browse around its famous enoteca revealed mouth-watering chocolate truffles, gianduja and torrone (nougat), all local specialities, like the bottles of Barolo, Barbaresco, Dolcetto, Barbera d’Alba and grappe monovitigne which many of us bought as gourmet souvenirs.

After the tour, we went for lunch at the Cherasco Golf Club, where Elisa, the organiser, is a member. A local white wine soon got the company in high spirits, and after the meal, Elisa’s father (a founder-member of the Cherasco Golf Club) had the special rum bottle out to go with the coffee, and plans were being made for future trips. We succeeded in attracting alumni from very wide catchment area which spanned Arse, Milan, Luino on Lake Maggiore, and Alba/Piedmont. By all accounts, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

Edinburgh University Alumni

There are about 40 Edinburgh alumni in the Otago and Southland regions of New Zealand, an area that includes some of the most diverse and beautiful scenery in New Zealand.

Edinburgh University Club of London

General Council
Half-yearly Meeting and Lunch
Saturday 28 June 2003 at the New Medical School. All members of the General Council are encouraged to attend the half-yearly meeting of the Council and, with their families and friends, are welcome to attend the Reception and Lunch to be held in The Common Room, The Chancellor’s Building, The Medical School, University of Edinburgh, Little France, Edinburgh, which will follow the meeting. Dr Michael Shea, Chairman of the Royal Lyceum Theatre and previously Press Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen, will give the after-lunch address. For further information and ticket application form see page 42.

Edinburgh University Club of France

France
Following the recommendation of member Claudine Dauphin, the French Alumni had dinner in a restaurant on the quays of the Seine in Paris called Le Bel Canto on Saturday 8 March. It was a delightful evening. The surroundings were convivial, the food was delicious and the meal was punctuated by the waiters and waitresses bursting into song. In fact they are all graduates of the Conservatoire of Music and entertain the diners with well-known airs from operas. Everyone agreed that the choice of restaurant was perfect. All our thanks to Claudine.

Please note change of postal address for the French Alumni Association: Association A.U.E.F., 59 rue Greneta, 75002 PARIS.

Edinburgh University Club of Manchester

Manchester Golf Day
The venue is Pleasington G.C., (an Open qualifying course) near Blackburn on Thursday 10 July. Tee off at 2.00pm, with dinner at 7.30pm. To register your interest, please contact Donald Scott, Calvert Cottage, Brindle, Chorley, Lancs. PR6 8NH, Tel: 01254 852509 by Friday 4th July.

Edinburgh University Club of China

China
The 8th international education fair was held in China’s major cities, Beijing on 22 February and Shanghai on 1 March. In Shanghai International Exhibition Center, thousands of candidates visited over 50 British universities and schools. Among the top universities presented, Edinburgh was, without doubt, one of the hottest destinations for Chinese students. The courses most frequently enquired about by students included MBA, computer science, arts, LLM, and science courses. The Edinburgh University Alumni Association in China was pleased to send volunteers from both Beijing and Shanghai to help at the University’s stands during the exhibition.

Edinburgh University Club of New York

Los Angeles
Saturday 7th June 2003 from 10am.
Private viewing of ‘The Legacy of Genghis Khan’ followed by a buffet lunch at the LA County Museum of Art’s Japanese Pavilion. Further information from Joanna Storrar: Jannna.Storrar@ed.ac.uk

Chinese candidates await interviews with University representatives.

Edinburgh University Club of Shanghai

Annual Dinner, 12th June 2003, The Caledonian Club, 6.30pm for 7pm.
Tickets £35 per head. Quarterly Dinner Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London W1.
All members are invited to dine at the Caledonian Club on the first Thursday of the last month in each quarter. No need to book. Meet in the bar at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Jacket and ties are required for entry into the Club. Cost to be shared on an agreed basis at the end of the evening. Transport to Victoria, Paddington and various points west can be provided afterwards.

For more information on these events please contact Miss Rosalind Topping, email: Rosalind.topping@rcpch.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Club of Boston

Chinese candidates await interviews with University representatives.

Events & Reunions, Clubs & Groups

WHAT’S ON

Alumni De L’Universite D’Edimbourg en France

The annual outing will take place on 14th & 15th June at Aubigny sur Nere. For information please phone 01 69 09 49 91 or e-mail pamjcl@wanadoo.fr

Dr Ed Feulner PhD 1981 being honoured for his contribution to the US alumni community.

Boston
18th & 19th October 2003 ‘Head of the Charles’ regatta. Both the men’s and women’s first VII from Edinburgh University Boat Club will be taking part; alumni in the Boston area are encouraged to go along and support our students.

Genghis Khan’ followed by a buffet lunch at the LA County Museum of Art’s J Hanover St and Great King Street. The city centre is dominated by an imposing statue of Robert Burns, strategically sited with his back to the cathedral and facing the pub! Among those who have attended the Edinburgh alumni get-togethers are the Right Rev Dr Penny J amieson (the Bishop of Dunedin), her husband Dr Ian J amieson, J ohn Holmes (Medical Officer of Health), Dr Douglas Girvan, Christine McKenzie, Tony and Wanda Gray, Barbara Lee, Jim McArthur, Frank Pilditch, Professor Olaf Simpson, Hugh Stringer, Kathryn Edwards, Dr Anna Holmes and the event organiser, Dr Marjorie Orr.

Dr Ed Feulner PhD 1981 being honoured for his contribution to the US alumni community.
**Habitual prize winner**

**DR SHEILA MOORE MB ChB 1954** makes a habit of winning raffles, but it will be difficult to top her latest success – a Swan Hellenic Discovery cruise of her choice for two people. This fabulous prize was awarded to Development & Alumni for being the cruise company’s top performing alumni association in 2002, and we were pleased to be able to pass this on to our previous cruisers through a prize draw, held on February 14th.

Dr Moore has enjoyed cruising with Swan Hellenic on many previous occasions, going back many years, and is looking forward to experiencing the new ship, Minerva II. “The prize was a wonderful surprise, and I have already chosen my cruise!”

For more information about our alumni travel programme, see www.dev.ed.ac.uk/alumni_travel.htm

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**Reunion Fundraising**

Increasingly, reunion organisers are choosing to mark a significant anniversary of their graduation by making a ‘class gift’ to the University.

**1972 MB ChB Reunion, 11-12th October 2002**

The organising committee for our year’s thirty-year reunion, decided to break with tradition and hold the reunion in Edinburgh. This proved to be a good decision: sixty-three graduates and fifty-one partners turned up to see the old place and enjoy the memories. The programme included a Friday Evening Reception in the Playfair Library; a (vaguely) Scientific Meeting on Saturday morning in the old Anatomy Lecture Theatre and a Ceilidh Dinner on Saturday in the MacDonald Holyrood Hotel.

A number of interesting relics of past glories from student days emerged from attics – including, amazingly, a stash of old Final Year Books – and a booklet of biographies was in great demand. The costs were calculated to include a donation to the Medical School, resulting in £2,500 being raised by our class towards this project.

Rumours are now going round about a thirty-five year reunion in New Zealand. Pry about the Americas Cup, though. That would have been the perfect excuse…. ...

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**1967 BSc Chemical Engineering Reunion, August 2002**

The BSc Chemical Engineers of 1967 returned to Edinburgh in August 2002 for a busy few days revisiting old haunts, seeing the changes that have taken place here in the last 25 years, and generally enjoying catching up with one another’s news. Following their get-together, the class decided to mark this special occasion with a ‘class gift’ to the Alumni Fund, raising over £12,000.

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**Questionnaire winner**

The winner of our annual questionnaire prize draw for 2003 was Mrs Natasha Meynell MA 1995. Mrs Meynell and her family are looking forward to their short break at Peebles Hotel Hydro: “With a new baby on the way this year, this break could not have come at a better time and will constitute our summer holiday!” she said.

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**Erratum**

Sincere apologies to Nicola McEwan MA 1996 for an error that occurred in the last issue of EDiT. News from fellow graduate Andy Howe was wrongly printed beside Nicola’s name in the World Service section. This has been corrected in the current issue.
Miss Julie-Ann Macqueen OBE Convener of the Macqueen Trust and raises funds by organising events.

Mr John B Mcnchie About to complete 25 years in ISAD - UN agency dealing with agricultural development. Keeps in contact with as many as possible whenever and where ever!

1930s

Dr Margaret Fleming née Walker MA 1936 MB ChB 1941 Previously organised an MB ChB 1941 reunion and shared the organisation of the second one. Still able to participate in a few local activities, eg Chairman of Gosforth Local History Society.

Dr Elizabeth Rose MB ChB 1938 Leads a ‘double’ life: dividing time between Bridge of Allan and Edinburgh, the family home since 1930.

Dr William Toop MB ChB 1938 Two return trips back to Thailand and China since retirement in 1982.

1940s

Mrs Helen J Richardson née Bichar MA 1940 MEd 1947 At 84, still able most weeks to join a silent vigil for peace, in all weathers, in the town centre, since September 2001. Is an active member of Amnesty International.

Dr Herbert Powell MB BS 1942 Publishing ‘A Doctor Remembers with Scalpel and Spanner’ recording medical ‘fun’ in Nigeria. Also preparing autobiography.

Mr Denis F Oliver OBE BSc 1942 Current President of the Shire Horse Society, the first veterinary surgeon to be so honoured in its 125 year old history.

Mrs Yvonne M Burns née Binnie MA 1943 Dip 1944 Working on family history.

Dr Dorothy Toop née Walker MB ChB 1944 Lives in a most excellent retirement village where every level of care is available. Has enjoyed recent alumni reunions alongside husband Dr William Toop.

Dr William Barton MB FCPHE MB 1945 Drs Bill Barton, John Abbatt and Alec Moffott, three MB ChB graduates of 1945, had a reunion in Victoria, B.C. Canada, in May 2002, during a visit of Dr Barton to Canada. Drs Abbatt and Moffott have both retired in Victoria.

Professor Emeritus Asher S Kaufman BSc 1944 BSc 1948 Third book on the temples of Jerusalem should appear this year, entitled ‘The Temple Mount: Where is the Holy of Holies?’

Dr Margaret Macnair MB ChB 1945 Retired December 1988 and lives in London. Has five children, two of whom have studied at the University.

Sir Francis McWilliams GBE BSc 1945 Dr hc 1994 Published ‘Pray Silence for Jock Whittington’, a biographical portrait of the life of a modern Lord Mayor of London.

Dr Colin Walker MB ChB 1946 MD 1952 Vice- chairman Dundee and District Pre-Retirement Council. www.ddpc.co.uk.

Dr Robert Ferguson MBE MB ChB 1947 Awarded Fellowship of BMFA last year. Believed to be the only one to come to Scotland in that year. Awarded both Associate and Founder Member 50th Anniversary Medals of RCGP. Believed to be only one to come to Scotland in that year.

Dr Alexander Roy BSc 1947 On returning to Australia in 2002, became a volunteer for Australian National Insect Collection (CSIRO Canberra) where spends four days per week looking after the spider collection. A life-time job

Mrs Sheila Senci née Cockayne MB ChB 1947 Member of Teacher’s Union, local Social Democratic Party, Deputy-Chair of board of Ferrugian-American Institute. Enthusiastic hobby painter (Crete) and grandmother of two. Wishing to serve as contact for UoE students in the Ferrugian area.

Dr Ganpati Sharma PhD 1947 Awarded eminent Indian Zoologist of the 20th Century Gold Medal in recognition of outstanding contributions and achievements in the disciplines of zoology and cytology by the Zoological Society of India on 29 December 2001.

Dr of Verst. Lord Mackay of Clashfras MB ChB 1948 LLB 1953 Recently appointed as Commissioner of the City of Cambridge.

Mrs Christian S Ledley née Elliot MA 1949 MEd 1950 Volunteering with the 1947 gold medalist in the Olympic Games.

Mr John E Burgess MA 1950 MEd 1952 Book ‘Renaissance realism’ (OUP 2003) was published on 5th January.

Dr Oliver Wilson MB ChB 1950 Founding Fellow (and Secretary, East of Scotland Regional Group) Institute of Contemporary Scotland. Still member of board of directors, world associate for psycho social rehabilitation (Consultants to the WHO) and UNESCO.


Professor Alastair Fowler MA 1951 BSc 1954 1950 In 80th year, and despite being a most excellent countryside doctor, his hobby painting (Crete) and grandmother of two. Willing to serve as contact for UoE students in the Ferrugian area.

Master Congregation. www.ddprc.co.uk.

Dr Robert G W Legge PhD 1951 Awarded the Order of Canada by the Government of Canada, designation GM, as a Member of the Order. Awarded both Associate and Founder Member 50th Anniversary Medals of RCGP. Believed to be only one to come to Scotland in that year.

Dr Donald H Madden 1951 Researches philologically Glib line-engraved stamps. Awarded fellowship Royal Philatelic Society London.

Dr William McIntyre MB ChB 1951 Shares an influence in USA, Probs and Photography Cultivate in with wife.

Dr Daniel Anderson MA 1952 MSc 1973 Completed Millennium Fund project with 2 friends to build wildlife garden for Graysmilly School for children with special needs. Active Water of Leith, RSPL, Phenology Project, observer and web reporter.

Professor Donald Demarry PhD 1952 Latest books are ‘With His Help: The Life and Ministry of David L McKenna’ (Indianapolis: Light and Life Communications) and ‘Proclaiming the Truth: Gospel and Scriptural Preaching’ (Nappanee, Indiana: Evangelt Press).

Professor Alastair Fowler MA 1952 BSc 1954 Book ‘Bhudda as Christ: Images of Wholeness’ (Luthernville) in 1970.

Professor D R Fraser Taylor MA 1952 PhD 1961 Since retiring as Professor of Classics, University of British Columbia. Still active in archaeological field work in Turkey and President of the Classical Association of Canada (2000-2002).

Professor J V S Megaw MA 1958 DLitt 1992 Plans, of the Shire Horse Society, the first veterinary surgeon to be so honoured in its 125 year old history.

Mrs Joan M Gardiner née Thomson MA 1959 Currently working in a voluntary capacity with prophets, disadvantaged learners with learning difficulties.


Dr Malcolm Willis PhD 1956 Book ‘Bhudda as Christ: Images of Wholeness’ (Luthernville) in 1970.

Professor R Fraser Taylor MA 1960 PhD 1966 Appointed Chancellor’s Professor, June 2002. Awarded a major research grant of $2.6 million for a project entitled ‘‘Reading the New Economy’ by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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Dr Donald Stainton MA 1960 Dip 1964 In 80th year, and despite being a most excellent countryside doctor, his hobby painting (Crete) and grandmother of two. Willing to serve as contact for UoE students in the Ferrugian area.

Dr Malcolm Willis PhD 1956 Book ‘Bhudda as Christ: Images of Wholeness’ (Luthernville) in 1970.

Dr Leonard Grant PhD 1961 Since retiring as President of Elmira College, has served two Presbyterian Churches as an Associate Pastor and writes for 'Dogs Today’ & ‘Our Dogs’.

Mr Michael W Stone MB BS 1962 Active hobby painter (Crete) and grandmother of two. Willing to serve as contact for UoE students in the Ferrugian area.

Mr Peter D Moncrieff MD ChB 1962 Two return trips back to Thailand and China since retirement in 1982.

Dr Farquhar Macintosh MB ChB 1962 Shares an influence in USA, Probs and Photography Cultivate in with wife.

Bill Barton, John Abbatt and Alec Moffott, three MB ChB graduates of 1945, had a reunion in Victoria, B.C. Canada, in May 2002, during a visit of Dr Barton to Canada. Drs Abbatt and Moffott have both retired in Victoria.

Dr Margaret Macnair MB ChB 1945 Retired December 1988 and lives in London. Has five children, two of whom have studied at the University.

Mr David J Moir BSc 1960 Retired but not bored - golf at Cruden Bay sees to that and performs to a dangerous - so friends say - 16 handicap! Three sons and four grandchildren and a long suffering and lovely wife of 43 years.

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Mrs Elizabeth Grubb née Grant MA 1957 Retired now live in the clean, fresh air of South Queensferry. Church, family and especially 6 grandchildren fully occupy the time!

Professor James Russell MA 1959 Currently retired as Professor of Classics, University of British Columbia. Still active in archaeological field work in Turkey and President of the Classical Association of Canada (2000-2002).

Mr Ralph Naylor BSc 1960 Retired but not bored - golf at Cruden Bay sees to that and performs to a dangerous - so friends say - 16 handicap! Three sons and four grandchildren and a long suffering and lovely wife of 43 years.
and serving on District and Town Councils (Mid-Suffolk and Stowmarket). Qualified as Blue Badge Tourist Guide, Bury St Edmunds. Recently travelled Trans-Siberian Railway from Beijing to St. Petersburg and Helsinki.

Dr Joan Abbott-Chapman née Abbott MB ChB 1965 PhD 1969 She plans to retire from University of Tasmania in June 2003 but continue research in education in independent schools.

Mr Garth H Clemson BVM&S 1963 Composer, performs. Teaches piano and violin privately at home. Has explored interests to writing short stories and novels.

Dr Katrina Eastwood née Taylor MB ChB 1963 Works part-time as a GP Psychotherapist. Regularly visits her two grandchildren and family near Toronto. Enjoys walking dog and going to her cottage north of Kingston.

Dr Linda Haley née Pett MA 1963 Housewife - support system for three doctors - two juniors and one senior!

Sheena Jones née Dowling MA 1963 Retired from College Museum in March 2003 and hopes to work in the New Museum Service as a volunteer.

Mr Charles Lawrence BSc CA FISI BSc 1963 Enjoying retirement with golf and regular trips to Granada to visit his Spanish grandchildren.

Dr Robert Darrow BArch 1964 Appointed Deputy Lieutenant on County of Northumberland September 2002.


Dr Robert G Heath BSc 1964 Founding member of the NADC (North America Development Committee) at Edinburgh University. Chairman, Music Conservatory of Westminster, Chairman, ASTM committee on Playground Safety Surfaces.

Dr Margaret Omberg née Eunson BVM&S 1965 Since retirement, moving to the New Zealand Museum Service as a volunteer.

Mr Robert G Heath BSc 1964 Dip 1966 Has just completed his MEng degree at the University of Edinburgh. Now Head of Department of Language and Culture and is looking forward to a few years of research before retirement.


Mr Schuyler Jones CBE MA (SS) 1965 Distinguished Professor, Wichita State University. Still writing and travelling to oilfield centres throughout the world and studying - mainly history and philosophy. Cutting firewood, building bookcases, making and filling compost bins. Lecturing on the history and cultures of Afghanistan.

Professor Jacob A Oloyemi MSc 1965 Secretary of the Nigerian Chapter of the Edinburgh University Alumni Association.

Mr James P Orr BVM&S 1965 Since retirement, spent 6 months working as a Pathologist Locum at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), London, England; several months working part-time for Prairie Diagnostic Services in Saskatchewan; and serving on District and Town Councils (Mid-Suffolk and Stowmarket). Qualified as Blue Badge Tourist Guide, Bury St Edmunds. Recently travelled Trans-Siberian Railway from Beijing to St. Petersburg and Helsinki.

Mr Donald A Reid LB 1965 Retired as a partner with Morton Fraser WS. Now working as an independent consultant on environmental law.

Dr Quentin Robinson MB ChB 1965 Recently completed 30 years as Consultant Anaesthetist at Wharefield General Hospital, which is now part of Leeds teaching Hospitals Trust, on 30 January 2003. Still enjoying working!


Dr John Fowler BVM&S 1966 PhD 1970 Elected Fellow, Academy of Toxicological Sciences (USA). Member of the Scottish Records Association.

Mr Brian D Johnstone BSc 1966 Working for an international firm of consultants involved in construction projects in both public and private sector. Specialising in multi-disciplinary expertise in structural engineering, asset management and petroleum projects.

Mr Thomas M Ross OBE BSc 1966 Recently appointed as President of the Faculty of Actuaries.

Miss Dorothy Thomson BSc 1966 Plans to retire in July 2003 after 33 years in optometrics at Birmingham Women's Hospital and after 2 years in genetics at the Edinburgh Children's Hospital.

Mrs Veronica Barrington née Finlay MA 1967 Died on 6th April 2003. Graduate from the National Trust for Scotland Gardens Department based in Charlotte Square.

Zoella Duffy DMA 1967 Was a journalist for 32 years and now edits the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society magazine, with incredible readership. If you have an interest in Scottish roots, e-mail her on editor@gfhs.w.org.uk.

Professor Ian S Fraser AD MB ChB 1967 Appointed an Officer of the Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for services to Medicine.

Mr John Campbell MB ChB 1967 PhD 1970 The second volume of his biography of Margaret Thatcher will be published by Jonathan Cape in October 2003.

Mr Nicholas E Ferguson BSc (SS) 1970 Became Chairman of the Courtauld Institute of Art in August 2002, an independent college which is part of London University.

Professor Peter Hurst BDS 1970 Recently appointed Professor of Dental Surgery, Department of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago.

Mrs Helen J Miller née Mackintosh MA 1970 Currently working as a speech language pathologist specialising in children within the autism spectrum.

Mr Laxman Sadarangani BVM&S 1973 Chair - Skeabost & Portree & District (July 2002 - June 2003) where Scotland is the featured nation. Preparatory work for the 2003 National Folklife Festival in Washington DC, June-July 2003, where Scotland is the featured nation.

Mr Laxman Sadarangani BVM&S 1973 Recently completed a six-year period as Head of Department of Language and Culture and is looking forward to a few years of research before retirement.

Mr Brian Perry OBE BVM&S 1965 MSc 1975 Younger daughter is now studying veterinary medicine at UEA.

Rev Nigel Pound (SA) 1965 Doesn't have the OBEE!! (see last issue Edit pat!). Has moved to Edinburgh as the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS Project Co-ordinator.

Mr Richard P Raleigh CAMG MA (SS) 1969 Transferring to Peru as Ambassador after three years as Ambassador in Romania. Remarried (Bijana) in July 2002.

1970s

Teresa M Burrows née Rankin BSc 1970 As part of the ‘Climb for Tibet’ team, will be attempting the Mount Everest summits via the standard route on 6th July 2003 to raise funds for Tibetan charities and the Tibet Free festival.

Mrs Rosemary Camp née Dowding MA 1970 BPH 1970. PhD 1980, an independent college which is part of London University.

Professor Peter Hurst BDS 1970 Recently appointed Professor of Dental Surgery, Department of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago.

Mr Robert Ramsay LB 1973 First child, Abigail Susan Gordon, was born on 5th August 2002. He and his wife, Sheila are now enjoying being grandparents.

Mr Brian Perry OBE BVM&S 1965 MSc 1975 Younger daughter is now studying veterinary medicine at UEA.

Dr Margaret Newlands BVM&S 1969 Founder of Cairn, a vocal trio specialising in a cappella arrangements of world music - first cd is called LiveRisPS George’s first cd. She plans to retire from University of Edinburgh in the 2003-2004 academic year.

Ms Margaret Newlands BVM&S 1969 Organises an annual Christmas dinner for all the alumni she can contact and who wish to attend each year in Dunedin in November.

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Rev John R Mackenzie recipient of a National Communications Award southern African bird fieldguide and recent India and plan private trips there for clients.

Miss Louise Nicholson Dr Alan Nahum an Advisor, Dept of Education, Govt of Madhya in the field. beyond have led to wide recognition as an expert manufacturers of packaging for food and successful computer consultancy is being London.


Dr Kenneth Gordon PhD 1978 Recently flew on the Space Shuttle on STS-112. He wrote this before the recent tragic events in August 2002. First woman to head a School of Architecture at University of Edinburgh in

Dr Steven Beard PhD 1985 Married to Elizabeth Kerner Ewing, writer and alumna of St Andrews University, A Star Map of his recently flown on the Space Shuttle on STS-112. He wrote this before the recent tragic events in the USA, creating the myth of STS-112 so recently makes this all the more poignant, and his map all the more precious.

Rev Edward McKenna BD 1983 Minister of South other things now poppin' up in the business world. L.J. Aitchison, a Royal Bank of Scotland economist who recently gave me his cast-off boots!

Mrs Linda Nicholson née Pears BMus 1975 Three of his recent publications indicate present work in human

Dr Alistair Convery PhD 1987 University and places she would go when she was a child. Her children are 12 and 8 and love travelling in Scotland.

Mr Narayanan R Unnithan BSc 1986 Married with two daughters and lives in Perth. Dr Curtis Cherrett of Architecture at University of Edinburgh in

Mr Brian McVier BSc (M) 1981 MB ChB 1987 Currently working as a Consultant Physician in

Rev Edward Thompson BD 1983 Minister of South

Dr Douglas Wilson BVM&S 1979 The first


Mr Brian PRobertson BSc 1981 Living on the Mornington Peninsula, Australia. Married with 2 girls. Mrs Marion M Cavaye née Jackson MA (SS) 1981 Retired from Civil

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Mr Andrew W Wood BSc 1987 Running own IT consultancy business. Still waiting for the big idea from which to make millions and then retire to the Bahamas.

Miss Cathryn Allen MA 1988 Daughter, Isabelle, born 27th November 1987. Currently at age 3 that time looking after Isabelle. Recently completed a Certificate in Journalism from Warwick University and is Chair of Coventry branch of the National Childbirth Trust.

Dr Soren Barsted 1987 Private practising dentist in centre of Copenhagen and teaching at Dental School, Copenhagen. Member of board, dental institute and chairman of the international committee.

Mrs Alison Banter BSc 1988 Full-time mother to John and Andy, nearly 2. Currently undertaking a lot of work on her barely habitable old house.

Ms Louisa Burnett-Hall MA 1988 Mother of three and still painting.

Mr Antony Foubister MA 1988 Got married on Table Mountain, Cape Town, last year.

Mr Duncan C Kinmore BSc 1988 Enjoying life in sunny Hawkes Bay, NZ, with wife Shona, two sons Finn and Cullen.

Mr David Louther BSc 1988 Living in Singapore, married with two children - Ryan and Soname. Wife is Melinda, a Singaporean.

Professor John Macquen Form Prof 1988 Published a book, "Wine: the drink of kings, the potion of Romans, the poison of villains, the Rhinomes of Gallows and Luce Valley" (Stranraer and District Local History Trust 2002).

Dr Yasuko Obana née Skillen PhD 1988 Recently started as Professor of Computing and Software engineering consultants. Wife Tara (1991, née Davis) expecting third child.

Mrs Elaine Hopley née Crawford BSc 1988 Gave birth to son, Charlie Alexander, 21st December 2002, first child Ella Constance Crawford Hopley.

Mr John Martin BSc 1988 Has moved to a new job (coastal and marine policy for SNH).

Mr John D Wilson MTh 1988 Commenced (World Church Leaders in Asia earlier this year.

Mr Graham W Crawford BD 1988 Recently called to St James in Lossiemouth. Moving back to Scotland with wife Jane and sons Jamie & Thomas. Miss Karen Donald BSc 1989 Was made redundant from GSK through a departmental closure whilst on maternity leave so is focusing on raising baby daughter (Katrina) between her studies and her new part time job.

Mrs Lynne Higgins née Stevenson BSc 1988 Son, Adam born 2000.

Mr Brent R Osborn-Smith MBA 1989 Recently married and looking a busy ophthalmic clinic in central London.


Mr Ahsan I Bhatty MA 1990 Married Chris Stevens (MA 1995) in April 2002 and working at the University of Aberdeen. Daughter Flora was born in April 2002.

Mr Donald R Webb BSc 1990 Currently working with a leading UK economic consultancy firm and specialising in management consultancy, agrif-food production and agri-food policy.


Miss Victoria Lisset BSc 1993 Graduated with MSc Forensic Dentistry on 31st January 2003 at UWE.

Dr Neilson Ludlow PhD 1993 Currently Chief Executive Officer for Mobilis Ltd, a software company specialising in mobile and wireless device.

Miss Alison Marney BVM&S 1993 in small animal practice in Lincoln. Lived for 4 years in Australia, where met husband Jason.

Mr Patrick Moss MA 1993 Married in 2002 to Virginia, who is now expecting first child. Still plays chess with several former Edinburgh University Chess Club Members.

Miss Caroline Warren-Sweetenham MA 1993 English Language Teacher. Currently studying for an MSc in Multilingual and Multicultural Learning, partly funded by the British Council.

Rev Fiona M Warr BSc 1993 Lives with Ray and their two children, Andrew (2) and Madeline (1). In September 2002 will leave her current post as a hospice nurse, is honorary assistant at their local Anglican church and Chaplain to a L’Arche community.

Mr Richard Adair BSc 1994 Currently based in Washington DC at Childrens National Medical Center.

Margarette Bell-Hildebrandt née Bell MSc 1994 PhD 1996 Currently lecturing in German and elsewhere abroad on international health care sector management. Published first book in spring 2002.


Mr Maxwell Bruce MA 1994 Having worked internationally, recently returned to Scotland married with two children. Currently working in a sports retail business.

Dr Helen Fortune-Jones MB ChB 1994 Moved to rural Yorkshire to take up position as a GP partner.

Miss Tracey Jennings BSc 1994 Currently Asssurance Manager for a project in South Arabia and London. She is embarking upon a correspondence course in Development Management.

Ms Cristina Odetto 1994 She is a happy teacher, loves English more and more, and is planning to have at least 2 children with fiancé!

Miss Alison Palmer BSc 1994 Teaching & studying part time at University of Kent. Volunteering for the archives at Canterbury Cathedral.

Mr Paul Peyton BSc 1994 Married Helen Watkins in Manchester in February 2003.

Ms Virginie Mascall 1994 Currently working as a freelance journalist. Married Duncan December 2001 and now tending baby Fred.

Ms Natasha Schultz née Christiansen BSc 1995 Works as manager of corporate development for a media company. Currently on one-year maternity leave with her first child (daughter). Moving to South Africa.

Miss Katherine Sheridan MA 1994 Currently studying herbal medicine.


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Miss Katherine Sheridan MA 1994 Currently studying herbal medicine.


think that Edinburgh was cold until she moved stateside in January 2003. Prof J Little MBA 1996 took up post of Principal and Chief Executive of Inverness College UHI in July 2002. Enjoying life in the Highlands.
Dr Gary F Reynolds Dip 1993 Presented to Faculty of Department of Family Medicine, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. Providing family medical cover to 매우 장본인 (be) and understanding it, but missing a bit literature a a.
Mr Eduardo M Sirtori BCom 1996 Currently Treasurer for Asia Pacific at ST Microelectronics Dr Stephen A MacFarlane PhD 1996 Currently working as Staff Grade in Acute Medicine at Aintree University Hospital, Fazakerley, Liverpool.
Ms Tonya J Taggart MBA 1996 Recently had career change and is working abroad in London. Great to get to use History of Art degree! Living in fulltime with boyfriend and in-touch with good group of 96 graduates.
Ms Virginie Venot MSc 1996 Pleased to announce life’s biggest miracle, Constance, 24th November 2002.
Mr Alastair McNessie BSc 1996 After being heavily involved in mapping cull area during the foot and Mouth crisis in Dumfries, he has now moved into developing web mapping solutions for the Scottish Executive.
Ms Rachel A Oxford MA 1997 Got engaged to Peter King in October and hopes to get married in 2003.
Mr Alistair M Wilkie MA 1996 Recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and is working for Caremark in Washington DC. Would like to express a special thank you to all the Scots who were so comforting to her when she was in Scotland on 11th September.
Miss Nancy Begg BSc 1997 New position at law firm in Edinburgh heading up the firms human resources operations; engaged to be married in England in September 2004.
Mr David Booth BSc 1998 Currently working for a degree for a degree in Environmental Law for the new Cambridge graduate medical course at the University of Cambridge.
Mr Thomas Cob BSc 1998 Currently studying for MPhil in Plant Science at University of Exeter.
Mr T Hammour LLM 1998 Recently obtained PhD from the University of Bristol. Has joined Hammarou & Partners, a Jordanian law firm, and at the same time has joined University of Jordan as Assistant Professor of Commercial Law.
Mr Andrew Harradine BSc 1998 Currently supporting local communities to take practical action to improve their environment. Is doing a Science degree in London.
Mr F Lassam LLM 1998 Now working as an in-house lawyer for the brokerage firm of the Credit Agricole group.
Mr Matthew Rapier BSc 1998 Recently completed a PhD in Molecular Microbiology at Bristol University.
Mr Wolfgang Sichtl 1998 Currently working as Assistant Editor with a regional radio station in Stuttgart, Germany.
Mr Sebastian Smyrke BCom 1998 Currently working for Accenture as a Strategy Consultant and living in London.
Mr G Tanaka MSc (SS) 1998 Responsible for running Kakher Communications Japan.
Miss Kate Thomas BSc 1998 Just back in the UK after spending four years in Tanzania where she regressed from Baboons to the Hotel Industry.
Dr Scott Weber 1998 Currently employed as Head Veterinarian and Research Scientist with the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA.
Miss Sarah Wheatley née Darrington BSc 1998 Got married in June 2002. Moved back to Edinburgh in back to social research, and bits of writing.
Miss Gillian Williams BSc 1998 Teaching in the History Department at his Grammar School just enjoying it.
Ms Karen Wylie née Daniels BSc 1998 After completing a Diploma in Probation Studies is now working as a Probation Officer in Northumbria.
Mr Mark University of Leicester.
Ms Libuse Bohuslavova née Premylovska (born in 2002).
Miss Jocelyn Stitt BSc 1998 Enjoying life in the Highlands! Working as a forensic biologist for Grampian
Mr Philip Kaisary BSc 2001 Married 3 years later with a daughter Laura (aged four) and baby Merlin (born October 2002).
Mr James H Muma MBA 1997 Chairman, Borders Foundation for Rural Sustainability, Board Member, Scottish Enterprise Borders. Vice President, Lothian and Borders.
Mr Philip J Montgomery BSc 1997 Married Dr Jill Rainey in October 2001 and returned to live in Northern Ireland in Summer 2002.
Ms Linda W Murchie BSc (M) 1997 Currently working as a forensic biologist for Grampian Police.
Mr John Oswald MA 1997 After graduating with a PhD from the University of Stirling in 2001, now living in Manchester, having moved from French Literature to Management Consultancy.
Ms Luminita Reil BSc 1997 Third volume of series ‘In the Psyche of Europe’ (in collaboration with Celic & Scottish Studies Department) entitled, ‘Symbols in the Psyche of Europe’, published February 2003, in Moscow.
Miss Jocelyn Stitt MLitt 1997 Received PhD in English from the University of Michigan in 2002. Married (McTigue) in 2003, had daughter, Elizabeth Grace Fenton, April 2001.
Mr Jonathan J West BSc 1997 Research transfer from Molecular Biology to research into developing micro and nanoscale devices and instrumentation for biological processing (eM scientist to engineer).
Dr Seng Yu Yang BSc 1997 Has moved on from Sunway College to join Monash University.
Ms Rita Aguilar MLitt 1998 Now a member of the Texas and Washington DC Bars and practising law in Washington DC. Would like to express a special
A question of identity

I HAVE JUST READ the article by Professor David McCrone in the winter edition of EDIT. I am Scottish by birth and Australian by choice, having come here in 1965 with an English (now also Australian) husband and three children.

When we came here, a surprising number of Australians talked about Britain as “home” even though they had never been there. And most of them actually said, “England”. Not many talk of it as home now but they still, by and large, say England when they mean Britain. My husband, who should know better, lets that pass. I don’t.

I am also occasionally asked if I am English, to which the reply is always the same: “No. Scottish, but Australian now.” (I’m always astonished they ask because I say words like where, what, why, whale and whatever with the h before the w - in other words, properly! Not to mention the odd slip-up where, what, why, whale and whatever with the h before the w.)

I don’t actually feel that being a Scot or an Australian matters a great deal to me. It doesn’t define who I am. I just won’t agree to being English!

Catherine Laughlin, Netherby, South Australia

I REFER TO the article Identity Matters by Professor David McCrone in the winter issue of EDIT. Ever since the Treaty of Union, Scots have been irked by the failure of the English to recognise their identity, as exhibited by such examples as Nelson’s signal “England expects”, hoisted by a Lewis man, and Masefield’s “When England stood alone”. British monarchs have taken the English nomenclatures and almost all British films and TV programmes, concerning wars in which Britain was engaged, refer only to England.

In Collins English Dictionary, a definition of “the English” is given as “the natives or inhabitants of England or (loosely) of Great Britain collectively” and Englishman/Englishwoman as “(loosely) a citizen of the United Kingdom”. Also, in their Robert French Dictionary, Collins gives a definition of Anglois as “British people, the British” and, when I took issue with them on the latter definition some years ago, their reply was, “That is how French people speak”. It is therefore little wonder that foreigners get it wrong. US citizens refer to the Queen of England and a girl once asked me if Scotland was in England.

It is my opinion that the continual denial of our identity is synonymous with the rise of the SNP and is likely to result in the break up of the United Kingdom. I, for one, will not rejoice if this happens, but many, like me, are more concerned with identify than with economic gain - if any.

Ian M. Malcolm (by email)

Rectorial elections past

IN ABOUT 1954 I was a medical student frequenting the Students Union, as this was where my mail came from home in Southern Rhodesia. One Friday lunchtime I was told I had volunteered to paint a slogan on the roof of a neighbouring building, extolling the merits of Sir Sydney Smith, holder of the Chair of Medical Jurisprudence, a favoured candidate for Rector. That night as I had finished painting the said slogan, a firm Scottish voice called on me to get down from the roof. On looking down, there were my two accomplices held by two large policemen. Without removing my handy work I left the roof and was escorted to the nearest police station, my feet barely touching the ground.

Here we all gave our details. The two policemen could not believe that my home address was Bulawayo and promptly rang my digs in Edinburgh. Luckily the phone was answered by my girl friend’s friend, who identified my place of residence in Edinburgh. If my girl friend had answered she swears to this day (she is still my original wife) that I did not live there.

I had to appear before the Borough Clerk for a dressing down and promised never to repeat my misdemeanour. Having been involved in the winning campaign I attended the celebratory dinner at the Wee Windaes Restaurant, which was on the High Street if my memory serves me right. After the dinner, as the speeches followed I had a torrential epistaxis (nose bleed). Fortuitously the master of ceremonies was none other than Dr Abbey Thomason, who, at that time was also the resident of “Top Lugs”.

He rushed to my aid and quelled the bleeding as any resident of “Top Lugs” did. He then took issue with me and quelled the bleeding as any resident of “Top Lugs” did. R.I.E. would. I never set eyes on Abbey again until four years ago, though I knew he had also come to North Queensland. We met for dinner and talked of time long gone. Abbey is still a broad shouldered, charismatic Viking from Shetland, with a twinkle in his eye and able to spin a good yarn.

This is one of his stories that makes me laugh to this day. He lived in a tenement flat on the 5th floor in Marchmont. One day the adoring father of one of his mates, a man of the cloth, made the long trip to attend the Wee Free Church synod. He also determined to visit his medical student son. He pulled the correct door knob to enter the building and stood at the bottom of the stair well and shouted up to the face that appeared on the fifth floor landing, “Does so and so live here?” To which the reply came back “Yes, just carry him upstairs”. Abbey Thomason remembers the actual name of his unfortunate friend who is also a respected medico.

Patrick William Gasson M.B.Ch.B. Ed. 1956
The EDIT Prize Letter

YOU HAVE ASKED for information on Rectorial elections and addresses over the years. One of the most notable must be that associated with Alastair Sim. It marked a break with the repetitive boredom of prominent legal, political and academic luminaries - self or otherwise thrust into the stratosphere of academe. They had to be prepared to subject themselves to ridicule by the student body as the address was traditionally punctuated by the casting into the space below the balcony of the McEwan Hall of various domestic fowls, the cacophony of amateur wits with more to say than to express, and a shower of paper, feathers, and more liquid contributions which did nothing for the composure of the more decorous seated in the stalls. For this torture the Rectors were rewarded with only an accolade as they seldom, if ever, were vocal representatives on the University Court, of the student body which had elected but so grossly humiliated them. In 1948 all that changed. The Dramatic Society mounted an unstoppable campaign which chaired the inimitable bald-headed actor to a sweeping victory. Alistair Sim’s delivery of the address was a masterpiece of crowd control. The rowdier elements of the student body were all prepared to repeat previous performances of foul and instrumental interruption. Sir Sydney Smith, Dean of Medicine, in his foreword to the published account of the occasion, refers to “an exhibition of undergraduate boisterousness” as the academic procession wended its way to the platform. Within minutes of the start of Mr Sim’s speech, the audience were in the palm of his hand. The substance of the address was a revelation. It is best distilled in the orator’s own words: “The scholar has honoured the truant. The Cap-and-Gown has exalted the Cap-and-Bells.” He proceeded to regale us with a potted autobiography interspersed with hilariously related anecdotes from which were conjured a tapestry of wisdom and advice.

You also enquire as to the identification of the signatories to a letter of appreciation to R. S. Scott. One of these was F. Sandeman. The Sandeman family has an extensive family tree, but unfortunately, F. Sandeman does not feature in the main list, with any birth date which would be compatible with his undergraduate status in 1847. In the fragments whose lineage could not be linked to the main family, there is a Farquharson Sandeman born in 1801 in Brechin and another Farquharson born in 1810 but these do seem to be remote, geographically as they are from the North-East, and in age from likely enrollment in 1847. I hope others may be more successful than I.

T. F. Sandeman (M.D. 1963, M.B.,Ch.B. 1950)

Donald Wintersgill has sent his thanks to all who responded to his request for stories about the rectorial elections.

Letter from Edinburgh

IN RESPONSE TO Mr Freshwater’s please in the last issue of EDIT, the signatory S. S. Laurie may be identified with Simon Somerville Laurie (1829-1909), Secretary to the Church of Scotland Education Committee, Visitor to the Dick Bequest, and Bell Professor of the Theory, History and Practice of Education in the University of Edinburgh (1876-1903), MA 1849, LLD 1903, St Andrews 1887, Aberdeen 1906. He was the author of a large number of works on education, of which his Institutes of Education, 1892, (in the older sense of Principles, cf. Calvin’s Institutes of Theology) was probably the most important. In addition, under the pseudonym of Scotus Novanticus, he wrote several philosophic works which no doubt reflected the teaching received in the Logics & Metaphysics class of 1847.

H. M. Knox MA 1938, Edinburgh

I NOTED WITH interest Peter Freshwater’s observations on R. S. Scott who “departed to study and graduate in Manchester before returning to study at Edinburgh in 1844-46”. I graduated at Manchester in 1960 and stayed on to do my PhD there. As a scientist, I took a keen interest in the history of science at Manchester and later in Dundee, during my med studies, I explored a little of the history of higher education in the UK, especially in Manchester and Dundee. I was therefore very surprised to see a reference to graduation in Manchester in the 1840s. The founding college, Owens College, was opened in 1851 and until the creation of the Victoria University in 1880, the College prepared students for London degrees. The Victoria University of Manchester – the correct title when I graduated - was chartered in 1903. Unless there was some form of graduation at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, which existed from the early 1800s, or R. S. Scott had simply studied somewhere in the Manchester area and taken a London degree, I cannot see how he could have graduated in Manchester.

I am aware that attempts were made from about 1830 to set up higher education provision, at first based in a small college in what is now Warrington. This was essentially a technical college. However, there may be some information about university classes in Manchester which has not yet come to light. If you can enlighten me, I would be grateful and inter alia know more of the story of R. S. Scott.

Roy Partington, BSc, MEd, PhD, Dundee

The Callan Challenge

I HAVE FOLLOWED with great interest the letters from Ian Callan over the last few years. They were of particular interest since in my first year at Edinburgh (1939-40), I lived in Cowan House, in the room next door to Ian Callan’s on the top floor. I don’t expect he will remember me since I was a “freshie” when he was, I think, in his final year, but I well remember the attractive young lady who used to visit him for Sunday afternoon tea (the only time we were permitted to have lady guests).

My wife Dorothy (née Bell) and I both graduated BSc in chemistry and technical chemistry respectively, and were married on 19 August 1944, so we can only be also-rans in the Callan Challenge, but are hot on his heels.

Our son followed our example by going to Edinburgh, and resides in the new Cowan House for his first year. I see this is being demolished and hope the name will be retained in some future residence so that our grandsons might follow in our path.

C. R. Bryson, Cleveland
The General Council is the means by which graduates have a continuing voice in the management of the University's affairs, and every graduate automatically becomes a member. Academic staff and members of the University's supreme governing body, the University Court, are also members of the General Council, which meets twice a year and has the right to comment on matters affecting the University's prosperity and well-being. For more information on the work of the General Council, visit http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.

This is the second Billet that comes to you within the University magazine Edit. I have been very pleased with the positive reception that so many of you have given to the Billet's new form, and am very grateful for all your helpful comments on how we might improve it further.

We congratulate Tam Dalyell MP on his election as the new Rector of the University, and we are looking forward to joining the platform party at his Installation on 24 April. We shall all welcome him to the half-yearly meeting of Council on Saturday 28 June, which he will chair for the first time. The meeting will be held in the new Medical School building at Little France, and I do encourage you to attend. We are also looking forward to welcoming Michael Shea, former Press Secretary to HM The Queen and now Chairman of the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, who will address us after the General Council Lunch.

The Business Committee continues to keep actively before it the University's strategy on student admissions, and is looking forward to discussing this shortly with Vice-Principal Gordon Kirk, Convener of the University's Admissions Strategy Group. The Committee has taken an interest in the proposal to transfer the Reid Music Library from Alison House in Nicolson Square to the Main Library in George Square, which has attracted the attention of the Scottish press; a number of members have written to us about this.

The Academic and Finance and Statistics Standing Committees have continued their rounds of briefing meetings and discussions with the Heads of Colleges and of University Support Services. The Constitutional Standing Committee is updating Council’s electoral procedures, and has flagged the need to review other aspects of Council’s Constitution in the light of the University’s restructuring, and of the adoption of the University’s new academic year from 1 August 2004. The Public Affairs Standing Committee has been concerned with the University’s museum, gallery and library collections, especially with the forthcoming exhibition in the Talbot Rice Gallery, ‘Object Lessons’, which we invite members of Council to view on 26 June (details on page 42). Details of the work of all four Standing Committees will be reported in the Annex to the Billet, which is available on application to the General Council Office.

Plans for the February 2004 half-yearly meeting in Edinburgh, and for holding the June 2004 meeting in London are underway. We have been delighted by the enthusiastic welcome to the latter that we have received from the Edinburgh University Club of London, and are planning this event in consultation with the Club. It promises to be a great occasion. The Officers of the General Council were honoured to represent the University and the Principal at the Edinburgh Science Festival Service in the High Kirk of St Giles on Sunday 6 April.
FULL AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 28 JUNE 2003

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting of the General Council on 8 February 2003

Present: Mr Robin Harper, Rector, in the Chair; Professor Timothy O’Shea, Principal; Dr Frances Dow, Vice-Principal (Development); Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council; Mr Peter B Freshwater, Convenor of the Business Committee; and 81 other members.

The Rev. Di Williams, Chaplain to the University, opened the meeting with prayer.

1.1 Result of the Election of General Council Assessors and Members of the Business Committee

The Rector intimated that the two new General Council Assessors to the University Court, elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 October 2003, were: Mr Gavin Scott and Mr Robin Orr Blair. The five new members of the Business Committee, elected to serve for the same period, were: Ms Anne Paterson, Ms Carole Clarke, Mr Gavin Douglas, Mr George Lawrence Allen and Mr William Robertson Belfitt Bowie.

1.2 Minutes and Matters Arising from the Meeting on 29 June 2002

Dr Peter Davison asked for it to be recorded that, under ‘questions’, he had raised a matter of correspondence with the University. The Minutes of the meeting on 29 June 2002 were approved.

1.3 Report of the Business Committee

Mr Freshwater, Convenor of the Business Committee, gave his report. The Committee had met four times since the last Statutory Meeting, and the Standing Committees had had active programmes. At the end of September, the Committee bade farewell to Professor John Cowan, Mr Iain MacLaren and Mr Gavin Scott, and welcomed Professor Ron Asher, Mr Michael Conway, Mr Ralph Parkinson, Mr Graham Rule and Mr Roger Windsor.

The new-style Billet had been sent as a section in the current issue of the alumni magazine EDT; and the Convenor thanked those concerned, particularly Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council, for overseeing the new combined publication. Comments received from members had expressed approval of the principle of the Billet within EDT.

The Officers had met with the new Principal, Professor Timothy O’Shea, and had joined other University departments in welcoming him. The Convenor welcomed the Principal to his first meeting of Council, and also welcomed Dr Frances Dow, Vice-Principal (Development). In September, the Officers of Council had joined members of the University at the farewell dinner for the former Principal, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, hosted by the Chancellor. This meeting of Council was the last to be chaired by the present Rector, Robin Harper, who would demit office on Friday 7 March. The Convenor thanked Mr Harper for his genial chairmanship of the half-yearly meetings, and for all his support for the work of Council.

The Convenor outlined the work of the Standing Committees since the last meeting of the General Council. He also noted that the Officers had held a very positive and cordial meeting with the President and Vice-President (Representation) of the Students’ Association. The General Council Dinner in the Raeburn Room, Old College, in August had been an enjoyable evening, and thanks were due to Alan Johnston, Vice-Convenor, for organising the occasion.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convenor’s remarks, and the record of the discussion following the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

1.4 Motion

Proposed by the Business Committee: Proposed Draft Amendments to 5.7 and 5.8 of the Constitution: Composition of the Business Committee.

The Motion, the details of which were set out in the February 2003 Billet, was unanimously approved.

THE NEXT DECADE

1.5 Report by the Principal

The Principal introduced the Annual Report for 2001/02. Student numbers were rising and a key issue was widening participation. Last May, Senatus had adopted the following statement, ‘In a just society it is right that all students who have the ability and potential to benefit from, and succeed in, the academic programmes of the University, should have an equal opportunity to do so. Diversity in the student body is educationally as well as socially desirable in a civilized society. It enhances and enriches the educational experience and contributes to greater tolerance and understanding which benefits the individual, the University and the wider community.’ This statement is wholeheartedly held by the vast majority of staff in the University.

The University had appointed a new Vice-Principal, Professor Gordon Kirk, with responsibility for widening participation. One of Professor Kirk’s briefs was: ‘The University is committed to the development of admissions arrangements that are fair, transparent, consistently applied and publicly auditable.’ This meant that notions that the University might initiate or advocate quotas, whether quotas in relation to students in England or quotas in relation to students from particular social categories, was completely wrong. It was vital that the University adopt a positive stance in relation to widening participation and access.

The University greatly values its Alumni, in different ways, with one of the most important being funding. It is important that people donate, particularly those who have benefited, and the University had held events in locations ranging internationally from New York to Hong Kong. The Principal asked that Alumni try to give publicly because the more that is donated publicly to the University, the more an example is set to others.

The restructuring of the University had been a great success, and the new schools structure was working well in terms of new inter-disciplinary research projects and new inter-disciplinary courses. Within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Vicki Bruce had been appointed as Head of College. The College has been successful in securing about £1M funding for the National Centre for Intellectual Property and Technology Law. In the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, Professor John Savill had succeeded Professor Bird. In August, the Chancellor opened the new £40M Medical School at Little France. In Science and Engineering, Professor Bulfield, famous for heading the Roslin Institute, has been recruited as Head of College. Within Informatics, a partnership had been secured with the University of Stanford, arguably the leading university in the world in terms of Computer Science.

In regard to the next decade, the Principal spoke under four headings: the context the University finds itself in; its great strengths; the challenges it faces; and its overall goal. Higher education was growing worldwide, even in the current financial circumstances. Participation in the United States is about 65%; in Scotland about 50% of the age cohort, and in England about 40%. In Scotland, more than 50% participation fits very well with the Scottish commitment to higher education. This University and the other universities have strong support from the Scottish Executive, from Scottish Enterprise and from Scotland’s Parliament.

In Scotland, the University is up against upfront top up fees. In England, about a quarter of universities are in the Russell Group, major research-led universities like Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, with medical schools; a quarter of universities are small and beautiful
like York and Sussex, with no medical schools but very strong research reputations; a quarter are massive new universities; and a quarter of English universities are in difficulty. Scotland is quite different. Edinburgh is the biggest university in Scotland, and 60% of all 5*s awarded in Scotland are in this University. It has the largest budget of any university and that makes it vulnerable. The English sector is about nine times larger than the Scottish sector. More than a third of Edinburgh students, and more that half of the staff, come from England. Through the White Paper, the Secretary of State has made some dramatic changes in funding. Over the next three-year period there will be a 20.5% rise. Currently, Scotland has a funding advantage over England in the order of 4% compared to the typical English university. Over the next three years, that will move to a disadvantage of about 16%. England has introduced differential fees - which this University is opposed to - of the order of £3,000 per annum. The English universities in the Russell Group, of which Edinburgh is also a member, have all announced that they intend to charge differential fees. We very much welcome the rise in funding to English universities, but if it is not matched in Scotland, then Scottish universities will have a problem.

The University's strengths are its research reputation; its very broad curriculum base, one of the broadest in Europe; the Scottish broad four-year undergraduate degree; its magnificent library; and its history. It has two key 21st-century strengths that every university wants. It is unambiguously strong in computer science, one of the very strongest in the world. It is unambiguously strong in the medical science and the life sciences. In terms of informatics, one of my great pleasures as Principal has been to sign the final contract for the high performance computing centre for the UK, where its massive £53M computer will be the most powerful civil computer outside the United States. The University's strengths include the great support of its students, former staff and alumni, also the tremendous commitment of its staff.

What are the challenges the University faces? The new College and School structure, and the new division with a Director of Corporate Services, are fit for purpose. The University has an extraordinarily strong research, teaching and administrative and support staff. The challenges are essentially financial and are also the speed of change. The financial challenge: last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer put 1% on National Insurance. What was the impact for this University? Straight away the University had to find £2M. Almost 90% of the University's £590M assets are buildings and insurance bills were going up anyway. In terms of trying to manage a

continued page 42
balanced budget the impacts of trying to look after the insurance and maintenance and legislative things that go with an estate worth £550M are very challenging. Trying to look after a staff pay bill that involves 7,000 is very challenging. Other challenges include the obsolescence of information technology equipment; changes in patterns of applications in undergraduates; and Disability Discrimination Act costs for a University with many Georgian terraced houses. In addition, the University sector in the UK is highly volatile. Over the last ten years there have been thirty mergers, three a year. One response the University can make is to be very tough on budgets. If the University is not to run a deficit, that is bound to mean discomfort particularly in the current environment. In terms of roles, it is very important to act quickly, to have officers. Another response is, as much as possible, to have devolved budgets with local incentives and controls. Overall then, what is the University’s goal? It is number one in Scotland, and if the only thing it is aware of is after a staff pay bill that involves 7,000 is very challenging.

A full text of the Principal’s presentation, along with questions and answers, is contained in the Annex to the Billet.

1.6 Any other competent business
1.7 Adjournment

The Motion by the Convener of the Business Committee that, for the purpose of considering matters which may be transmitted to the General Council by the University Court or any other business of a competent nature, the Business Committee be empowered to act on behalf of the Council, and that this meeting be adjourned to a date to be fixed by the Business Committee, was approved.

The Rev. Di Williams closed the meeting with a benediction.

2. Report of the Business Committee
3. Dates of future meetings of the General Council
4. Notice of forthcoming Elections
5. Presentation by Professor Andrew A Calder, School of Clinical Science and Community Health, College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine
6. Any other competent business
7. Adjournment

The Annex to the Billet contains supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of the presentation, and the Business Committee’s report to the meeting on 8 February 2003. General Council members may either collect the Annex from half-an-hour before the Council Meeting, or request it by post from: Mrs Jean Gibson, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel. 0131 650 2152. Email: General.Council@ed.ac.uk.

**THE JUNE 2003 GENERAL COUNCIL LUNCH**

FOLLOWING THE Statutory Meeting, members of the General Council, other alumni, partners, family and friends are cordially invited to the General Council Lunch on Saturday 28 June 2003 in the Common Room, The Chancellor’s Building, The Medical School, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, at Little France. Dr Michael Shea, CVO, DL will give the after-lunch address. Tickets at £13 include pre-lunch sherry and a three-course meal in the Common Room, The Chancellor’s Building, The Medical School, University of Edinburgh, Little France. Table wines will be available for purchase. Tickets can be obtained from the General Council Office, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-15 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Website: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.

Please send me _____ tickets for the June 2003 General Council Lunch. A cheque for £_______ is enclosed, payable to The University of Edinburgh.

Name

________________________________________

Address

________________________________________

Postcode

________________________________________

Name(s) of guest(s)

________________________________________

Please return to: Mrs Jean Gibson, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, General Council Office, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT.