Something old, something new?
Why a makeover for the Old College Quad is long overdue

+ Pastures new
The Vet School makes an exciting new move

+ The School of Law turns 300
We look ahead to the Law School's tercentenary celebrations
Old College Quad is a space at the historic heart of the University. Many alumni will have memories of its grandeur and plans are afoot to interpret Playfair’s original designs for the 21st century. The result should be the creation of a multi-purpose venue, one in which it is hoped people can meet and enjoy the imposing classical architecture. See pages 14-15 for details of the fundraising initiative.

In contrast the University’s plans for a new school will see students studying in a state-of-the-art facility. On pages 10-12 Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies explains the benefits of a purpose-built home for the School.

For the first time, the General Council will hold a half-yearly meeting outside the UK. The June event will take place in Paris and promises to be an enjoyable and stimulating weekend. Full programme details can be found on pages 35-36.
New Rector for Edinburgh

Green Party MSP Mark Ballard has been appointed the new Rector of the University of Edinburgh, following a closely-fought election featuring Tory MP Boris Johnson, former Scotsman editor Magnus Linklater and campaigning journalist John Pilger.

The election was held on 15 and 16 February and for the first time invited staff and students to vote using an electronic voting system. Ballard, who will replace Tam Dalyell as Rector, was closely followed in the results by Linklater. Boris Johnson and John Pilger came third and fourth respectively.

The University’s Principal, Professor Timothy O’Shea said: “I am delighted that we had four such high-calibre candidates contesting this rectorial election, and that it has generated such interest and debate on issues of real importance to students and staff.

“I extend a warm welcome to Mr Ballard and look forward to working with him in our continued efforts to ensure that this University is an excellent place to study and work. I am quite sure that he will have a valuable and interesting contribution to make to the life of the institution.”

He also praised the contribution of Ballard’s predecessor, adding: “Tam Dalyell has done a super job as Rector over the past three years and his outstanding contribution is greatly appreciated.”

Ballard pledged in his manifesto to ensure that the views of staff and students were listened to by the University and vowed to campaign on University issues such as bus passes for mature students, affordable accommodation and top-up fees as well as worldwide issues like fair trade, recycling and ethical investment.

Leading lights lecture at Edinburgh

Khan enlightens Edinburgh

More than 1,000 guests gathered at the Assembly Hall, New College to attend the first lecture in the University of Edinburgh Enlightenment Lecture Series, featuring Amnesty International’s Secretary General Irene Khan.

Khan, who is the first woman, first Asian and first Muslim to head the global organisation, was visiting Scotland for the first time to take part in the lecture series, which is held in partnership with ScottishPower.

Khan’s lecture “The War on Terror... A War on Liberty?” was the first in a series that seeks to examine aspects of the Enlightenment’s legacy in the context of our own contemporary world.

Details of future events will be available at www.ed.ac.uk/news/enlightenment/

Genomics Forum lecture with Ian Wilmut and Pallab Ghosh

In January Ian Wilmut, Professor of Reproductive Science at the University, and Pallab Ghosh, BBC Science Correspondent, presented a public lecture on the controversial issues of cloned human embryos in research and therapy. The lecture was hosted by the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum.

Both lectures can be viewed online at www.ed.ac.uk/explore/av/

University annual turnover exceeds £400 million

The University enjoyed a year of strong financial performance with its annual turnover exceeding £400 million for the year ending 31 July 2005. This places it as the sixth largest university in the UK and the largest in Scotland in terms of overall income.

Professor Timothy O’Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, said: “The strong financial performance is driven by the success of the University of Edinburgh in student recruitment, research excellence and the good performance of the commercial spinouts and activities.”

Jon Gorrine, Director of Finance for the University of Edinburgh, said: “The University of Edinburgh will continue to run its finances in a way that enables it to reinforce its many teaching and research strengths as well as take new initiatives so that it improves its position as the most internationally competitive Scottish university.”

Edinburgh scores highly with international students

The University is highly rated by international students for reputation, friendliness and teaching quality, according to the results of the Student Barometer Project, which is considered to be a global benchmarking study of expectations and experiences among international students, last autumn.

The project is undertaken by an independent organisation called i-graduate. Twenty-seven universities participated, including 10 Russell Group universities. More than 18,400 students completed the survey, with 9091 students from 88 different countries at the University of Edinburgh responding.

Aside from being highly rated for reputation, friendliness and teaching quality, Edinburgh was voted the ‘place to be’ in Scotland and the second best ‘place to be’ in the UK.

Edinburgh chemists aim to improve cancer drugs

Researchers at the University are a step closer to producing anti-cancer drugs with fewer unwanted side-effects than conventional chemotherapy.

The Edinburgh chemists, working with researchers at Greifswald in Germany, have developed platinum compounds which target and destroy cancer cells but leaves surrounding healthy tissue unharmed.

The breakthrough, reported in the journal Chemistry & Biology, builds on previous work carried out at Edinburgh and Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

Although light-activated cancer treatments are common, it is the first time non-toxic platinum light-sensitive compounds have been used to kill tumour cells...overexisting light-sensitive therapies as it does not need oxygen – often limited at tumour sites – to become active.

“The results of this latest study are encouraging, as photo-activation of these platinum complexes appears to provide a unique mechanism for killing cancer cells,” explains Professor Peter Sadler, of the University’s School of Chemistry.

“The study also suggests PACT will be more effective than existing platinum-based therapies. Platinum anti-cancer drugs are among the world’s best-selling cancer treatments but, though effective at killing certain types of cancer cells, they are often linked to hair loss, nausea and damage to the nervous system.

PACT, however, targets only malignant cells. The compounds are placed on tumour cells in a ‘dormant’ state and then activated by laser directed only at cancer cells, so that toxic damage to neighbouring healthy tissue can be significantly reduced.

“On-going treatment with PACT will produce fewer side-effects than existing photo-activated drugs, which can linger in the body after treatment.

Mark Ballard gives the thumbs up to his new role
University luminaries named Scots of the Year

Four of the University of Edinburgh’s leading figures have been recognised as Scots of the Year in a national list of merit recognising significant achievement in contemporary Scotland.

The inaugural Scots of the Year awards, presented by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland (ICS), acknowledge and recognise the achievements of individuals in 12 areas of modern-day Scotland including services to economics, literature and medicine.

The John Aitkenhead Award for services to education has been conferred on Professor Tom Devine, the eminent historian who holds the Sir William Fraser Chair of Scottish History and Palaeography.

Professor Geoffrey Boulton, Regius Professor of Geology and Mineralogy and Vice-Principal at the University, was awarded the David Tedford Award for services to science.

Kenneth Roy, Director of the Institute of Theology and Public Issues, Dr Alison Elliot, who was the first woman moderator of the Church of Scotland, becomes the first holder of the James A Whyte Award for services to religion, and former Rector Dr Tam Dalzell MP, former Father of the House of Commons, has been awarded the Kenneth Alexander Award for public service.

Dr Neal Uren, an investigator of the ASTEROID study, a consultant cardiologist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and a senior lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, said: “The idea behind Generation Scotland was hatched several years ago. It anticipated that the Human Genome Project would help us to understand how the genes we inherit influence our health. Now we want to apply this knowledge to the benefit of all.”

The Confucius Institute for Scotland has been created to spearhead the teaching of Chinese language and culture worldwide and to strengthen economic and business ties. The Ministry of Education in China intends to open around 100 Confucius Institutes across the globe by 2010.

University to host first Confucius Institute in Scotland

The University is to host the first Confucius Institute in Scotland, a centre to promote study of the Chinese language and greater understanding of its visual and literary culture, history and business.

The announcement was made jointly in Beijing last March by First Minister Jack McConnell and Chinese Minister of Education Zhou Ji. It will be part of a global network of institutes created by the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, a branch of the Ministry of Education in China, and in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in London.

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The Founding Institute in Scotland will provide staff on long-term secondment to the University of Edinburgh to support the work of the Institute.

The University’s Principal, Professor Timothy O’Shea says: “The University of Edinburgh shares a long history of over 150 years of productive collaboration with China. The Confucius Institute will be an excellent and welcome addition to the University. It will allow us to strengthen and develop our existing programmes in Chinese studies, including Chinese language, art and culture, and will open up exciting opportunities for joint research programmes and workshops, and staff exchanges. Indeed, I hope that the Confucius Institute in Edinburgh will prove to be a valuable resource for furthering Scottish engagement in China in a range of areas – both cultural and commercial.”

University medics help the nation’s health

The University of Edinburgh is to play a key role in a major national health project.

Generation Scotland is an ambitious scheme that will investigate the ways genetic and lifestyle factors influence common hereditary illnesses.

The University of Edinburgh’s Turning back the clock on the fatty build-up that clogs up the arteries, according to results of a new landmark scientific study.

The two-year study, called ASTEROID, was presented last month at the American College of Cardiology conference in Atlanta. It demonstrates that for the first time a statin, a treatment used to lower cholesterol – rosuvastatin (Crestor) – can reverse the fatty build-up in the artery wall.

Dr Neal Uren, an investigator of the University of Edinburgh’s ASTEROID study, a consultant cardiologist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and a senior lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, comments: “The first wave of volunteers, recruited through their general practitioners, will form the Scottish Family Health Study – the biggest family-based project of its kind in the UK. The scientific partners have begun collecting health and genetic data from Scottish families to build a rich store of material to explore the causes of common diseases.

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Researchers optimise oil recovery

A research consortium, including Professor Ian Main and Dr Lun Li from the School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh, has developed a technique to improve oil recovery from mature fields. Producing oil from the subsurface is complicated and requires a detailed understanding of the geological complexities of subsurface structure. The physical modelling of reservoir behaviour is used to plan field development and to determine the location of injector wells to maintain fluid pressure in mature provinces, such as the North Sea.

The researchers have developed a complementary approach to reservoir modelling that will help predict future production rates for a given injection strategy. The technique has already been proven on two oilfields, including a North Sea site.

Principal investigator of the consortium, Professor Ian Main, said: “This innovation could have a significant effect on the efficiency of operating oilfields worldwide, especially the more mature fields where optimising recovery is important.”

Professor Ian Main (left) and Dr Lun Li

University earns awards for supporting women in science

The University of Edinburgh has gained a silver award in recognition of its commitment to two key areas of SWAN’s work – helping to raise the staff profile of women involved in science, engineering and technology. The awards, derived from developmental work by the Scientific Women’s Academic Network (SWAN) and now adopted as part of the Royal Society Athena Project, were presented at a ceremony at the Royal Society in London on 15 March.

The Athena Project seeks to promote the careers of women in science, engineering and technology in higher education and research, and to achieve a significant increase in the number of women recruited to top posts. Apart from one University silver award, the University of Edinburgh’s School of Chemistry is the only other university department in the UK to receive a silver award, while the University as a whole is being given a bronze award.

The School of Chemistry will be given a silver award in recognition of its commitment to two key areas of SWAN’s work – introducing practices which encourage a good work-life balance and fostering policies which encourage success among women involved in science. The University will be granted a bronze award for its work in three key areas – helping to raise the staff profile of women involved in science, engineering and technology; providing positive support for women; and influencing the gender balance in the decision-making process.

Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley (left) and Professor Lesley Yellowlees

“The achievement of the Silver SWAN award is great news. Chemistry over the last few years has undertaken a number of initiatives to focus on creating a culture that is life-friendly, in that we support our staff in maintaining their work-life balance. We believe that this enhances the working experience for all staff and creates an open and enjoyable work environment. To receive the Silver SWAN is just reward for a number of years of hard work and dedication from all of our staff.”

Michael Anderson, Senior Vice-Principal and Principal’s nominee for Equality and Diversity oversight and development within the University of Edinburgh, has welcomed the announcement of the bronze award. “The University has been an active participant in Athena initiatives and projects since 2000. It is committed to diversity and equal opportunity for all staff and students, and aims to embed these principles as fundamental, assisting all its members to realise their full potential.”

“TO support this commitment, the University has developed an Equality and Diversity Strategy Action Plan and has set up the Equal Opportunities Technical Advisory Group to determine its progress. The University has also implemented and regularly updates a number of policies such as career development schemes, promotions and grading, performance management reviews, childcare vouchers, and flexible working policies.”

Edinburgh Alumni honoured by Queen

A number of University of Edinburgh alumni have been recognised in the New Year’s Honours List.

OBE – Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Sheriff John Allan OBE, 1962 SL, Sheriff, Lothian and Borders. For services to the Administration of Justice.

Professor Patricia Peattie OBE, 1974 BSc (S), Lately Assistant Principal, Napier University. For services to Education and to Health in Scotland.

Ms Sally Witcher OBE, 1999 MEd, Chair, Disability Employment Advisory Committee. For services to Disabled People.

MBE – Member of the Order of the British Empire

Mr Patrick Stirling-Aird MBE, 1966 LLB, Secretary, Scottish Raptor Study Groups. For services to Wildlife Conservation.

Mr John Wilder MBE, 1962 MA, Lately Management Information Systems Manager, Gateway Sixth Form College, Leicester. For services to Further Education. Alumni in the Diplomatic Service and Overseas List:

Ms Naomi Clapham MBE, 1967 BSc (S), For services to the British Community in Algeria.

Member of University Court in the Civil List

Ms Shonaig Macpherson OBE, Chair, Scottish Council for Development & Industry. For services to Entrepreneurship.

Mr John Willder MBE, 1962 MA, Lately Management Information Systems Manager, Gateway Sixth Form College, Leicester. For services to Further Education.

At the cutting edge

Robust cutting technology designed to withstand the rigours of the North Sea could soon be adapted to perform delicate surgery, thanks to engineers at the University of Edinburgh.

“Now it could offer real benefits in the medical field. By speaking to a number of surgeons, I became aware of the difficulties associated with conventional cutting tools used in theatre, even though surgeons are, for the most part, happy using them. “We are keen to develop a high-pressure water jet scalpel which offers flexibility, and is quiet and comfortable for a surgeon to use.”

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Inhaling diesel exhaust at levels typically found in large cities may disrupt normal blood-vessel and clotting activity, according to a new study carried out by the University. The report, published in Circulation, the journal of the American Heart Association, may explain the link between air pollution and heart disease, said lead researcher Dr Nicholas Mills, of the Centre for Cardiovascular Science at the University of Edinburgh. The study, researchers from Edinburgh and Sweden found that exposure to diesel exhaust for one hour during exercise caused a significant increase in blood vessels’ natural ability to expand (dilate). Exposure to air pollution also decreased levels of an enzyme that helps prevent clots from forming.

In the study, participants underwent two separate one-hour evaluations, two weeks apart. Researchers conducted the test in a specially-built diesel exposure chamber, where the men were exposed to either filtered air or diesel exhaust while riding a stationary bicycle. Two and six hours after being in the exposure chamber, the men received infusions of vasodilating drugs – substances that cause blood vessels to relax and expand – in one arm. Researchers measured blood flow in the infused and non-infused arms. They found that forearm blood flow decreased significantly two hours after diesel exposure, and the reduced response to the vasodilators persisted at six hours. Such changes in the blood vessels are a risk factor for heart attacks. “Whether these findings apply to gasoline-powered engines is unclear,” said Mills. Diesel fuel and gasoline are burnt differently during engine operation. “Diesel exhaust consists of a complex mixture of particles and gases. Before we can advocate the widespread use of particle traps in diesel engines, we need to verify that combustion-derived particles are the responsible component,” Mills said. “If we do that, then it is likely that particle traps on exhaust pipes and cleaner fuels, currently under development, will greatly benefit public health.”

Woodland revival may be blowing in the wind

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh have discovered that depleted natural woodlands may be better equipped to reverse the effects of deforestation than was previously thought. A new study of a remote and barren Scottish hillside suggests that scientists have greatly underestimated the ability of tree populations to disperse their genes over a wide area, which is good news for conservationists seeking to revitalise the remnants of Britain’s native woodlands, as well as those striving to protect fragile tropical rainforests.

The study of scattered ash trees in the Southern Uplands found that seeds carried by the wind play a surprisingly significant role in helping to regenerate tree populations. Earlier research had indicated that, compared to pollen, wind-carried seed played only a minor role in helping trees to spread their genes. But, because seeds carry two copies of every gene (whereas pollen carries only one), depleted woodland areas appear to be less genetically isolated – and therefore biologically ‘fitter’ – than previous studies had indicated.

Dr Richard Ennos, of the University of Edinburgh’s School of Biological Sciences, said: “Concern has been expressed about the prospects for these potentially genetically isolated populations. If remnants are no longer able to exchange genes, then their ability to adapt to future climate change will be compromised. They will also possess genetic features that make them inappropriate as sources of seed for restoring native woodlands. “Our study is good news for conservation. Thanks to its effective seed dispersal, ash can defy the genetic threats posed by fragmentation. Furthermore, local ash populations, despite their small size, can be used with confidence as seed sources for native woodland restoration.”

Study discovers diesel dangers

The Edinburgh scientists developed a contraceptive pill which they hope may protect against breast cancer, as well as being helpful in the treatment of fibroids, endometriosis and pre-menstrual syndrome. Professor David Baird, Emeritus Professor of Reproductive Endocrinology and lead researcher on the project, said the work was still at a very early stage, but indicated the new pill could be available within five years. He revealed the news at a briefing held to mark the 50th anniversary of the first clinical trials of the contraceptive pill.

The Edinburgh scientists hope that the new treatment will not carry the same increased risk of breast cancer thought to be associated with the current pill, which contains the hormones oestrogen and progesterone. The new contraceptive may also reduce the risk of thrombosis for older women who smoke or are overweight. The new pill works by blocking the hormone progesterone, which causes eggs to be released into the womb each month, stopping the monthly cycle of periods. Initial trials have provided positive results, with what researchers describe as very few side effects. Professor Baird and Professor Richard Anderson, Professor of Clinical Reproductive Science at The University of Edinburgh and Professor Anna Gissler, Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health at The University of Edinburgh and lead clinician for Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust, were all present at the event.

University celebrates its Fleming connection

The historic association between Sir Alexander Fleming and the University of Edinburgh was celebrated, when Edinburgh Technopole’s latest state-of-the-art building was named after him. The Edinburgh Technopole’s latest state-of-the-art building was named after him. The 36,000 sq ft Fleming Building, which houses high-quality office and laboratory space, is the latest high-profile addition to the world-class science park, jointly developed by the University and property company Grovesnor. The park has been the home to two of the world’s fastest supercomputers, as well as Xilinx, a global leader in the semiconductor industry.

Ian Murphy, Director of Technopole, commented: “The completion of the Fleming Building marks the next stage in Edinburgh Technopole as a dynamic environment and outstanding place to work, as well as being a world-leading facility for science and technology innovation.”

Professor Timothy O’Shea remarked: “We felt it was fitting to name our latest building after Sir Alexander Fleming, to celebrate his association with the University but also to recognise his spirit of pioneering change and scientific advancement.”

Alex Fleming was Rector of the University from 1951-1954.
The departure from Summerhall after more than 90 years will be an emotional one – not just for staff and students, but also for countless alumni worldwide for whom the distinguished old building represents the first steps on their career ladder.

The move is one which would have pleased that most forward-thinking of practitioners, the school’s founder, William Dick. His studious countenance, captured in a stained-glass window in the Summerhall foyer, will also make its way to Easter Bush, a continuing reminder of the spirit of scientific inquiry which informed his pioneering work.

The upheaval will be worth the effort. Once the six-mile move from the Meadows is completed in 2009, Edinburgh’s unrivalled new facilities will be second to none.

It is a familiar story to anyone who thumbs through the property pages: urban dwellers seeking to escape the confines of the city. But, for that most venerable of Edinburgh institutions, the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, the imminent move from city centre to country setting is born of necessity rather than a whim.

Relocating to fresh pastures in Midlothian is fitting: not only does the pastoral setting seem apt for those whose vocation is the welfare of animals, but, more significantly, it comes at a time when veterinary medicine as a whole is breaking new ground.

These days, thinking of vets primarily as people who treat the family Labrador is rather like imagining the modern fire service is principally concerned with the rescue of cats from trees. Although one in two British households now owns a pet, domestic animals are not the Dick Vet’s sole concern: its wider goal is to help address the global skills shortages in such key areas as farm animal practice, biomedical research and food safety.

The demand for veterinary expertise has never been greater: the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak of 2001 underlined the leading role vets will play when future epidemics strike; major scares such as E. coli, Salmonella and BSE mean that vets will be key players in the food industry too; and, in the public health arena, vets will help monitor the threat of SARS, AIDS and avian ‘flu, which have their origins in animals.

Meeting the demand is a costly, complex business and so a drive to raise £37 million for a new veterinary school has begun. With a funding package of £29 million in place, a campaign to raise £8 million from philanthropic sources is under way.

An ambitious £37 million appeal is helping to keep Edinburgh at the forefront of developments in veterinary medicine. Ronald Kerr charts its progress.

ON PASTURES NEW
In Edit’s Enlightenment-themed Summer edition, we gave our readers the opportunity to demonstrate their creative photography skills by launching an exciting photography competition. We asked both professional and amateur photographers to submit images that best captured the “Spirit of Enlightenment”.

Winners

The winners and runners-up stood out for their excellent use of light and colour, as well as their individual interpretations of the theme. Mariah Skellorn, in the professional category, received a Fujifilm Pro digital camera, and Jonathan Henderson, in the amateur category, received a Fujifilm S20 digital camera. Both runners-up shared £300 in Fujifilm vouchers.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

1st Prize: Mariah Skellorn
Title: “River”

Runner-up: Alex Hewitt
Title: “Reach for the Sun”

AMATEUR CATEGORY

1st Prize: Jonathan Henderson
Title: “The Ring of Brodgar: George Mackay Brown’s Enlightening Landscape”

Runner-up: Fred Jagger
Title: “God in the Details”

“Spirit of Enlightenment Photography Competition”

The Head of School, Professor Elaine Watson, believes it is the most exciting opportunity for the School since it relocated to Summerhall in 1916 from its original site in Clyde Street. “We will be uniquely placed in the UK to provide the best possible environment in which to train tomorrow’s vets, and the new building is crucial if we are to provide the profession with the people that it so urgently needs.”

The new school will form part of a larger complex of clinics, veterinary research buildings and farm facilities at Easter Bush, where there has been an impressive investment of £11.5m since 2000. A new purpose-built school will allow significantly more students from a wider range of backgrounds to study in state-of-the-art facilities, which will offer hands-on experience from the first day of teaching. An innovative new curriculum will allow more student choice, and more self-directed and problem-based learning.

The students will be in good company. They will observe at close quarters the work of researchers like Dr Mark Bronsvoort, a lecturer in Veterinary Epidemiology, whose work in Cameroon on the spread of foot-and-mouth disease – and more recently, the H5N1 virus that causes avian flu – is typical of the dynamic role which vets have to play in the modern world.

Although his work frequently takes him abroad, Mark sees the move to a single site at Easter Bush as beneficial: “It’s far better if you can bring everyone together on the one site – that way people like me, who are working in the field, can interact more readily with pure scientists such as the virologists and bacteriologists who are based in the lab.”

It is a view shared by Dr Sarah Cleaveland, another well-travelled lecturer based in the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, who is working on a dog vaccination programme in Tanzania which, if successful, could play a vital role in the battle against rabies. Her group’s plan to vaccinate 40,000 dogs each year should drastically cut rates of infection and save lives.

Says Sarah: “The sort of questions that my team and I are asking can only be properly addressed by involving people from a range of disciplines. The broader the spectrum of expertise that you have in new purpose-built facilities, the better it is for everyone.”
It’s Summer 2009 and excited graduates mill on the fresh, green lawn, clutching their University of Edinburgh scrolls, while sipping on champagne and nibbling strawberries. Proud parents gaze at the grandeur of the spectacular building that surrounds them on the paved terrace that offsets their surrounding beautifully.

This is not a Higher Education marketing brochure fantasy but a realistic vision of what Playfair’s intentions for the new Quad design, as the perfect venue for graduation celebrations, but it is hoped that it will also be able to operate as a high-class venue for festival shows and will help cement Old College’s position as a city landmark.

It will attract many more visitors and tourists and will therefore provide people with memories of the building that they can take home with them, enhancing the profile of the University. John Leishman says: “It will attract many more visitors and tourists and will therefore provide people with memories of the building that they can take home with them, enhancing the profile of the University.”

An extra benefit will be to provide a clearer access point to the Talbot Rice Gallery, something that the gallery’s Principal Curator, Pat Fisher supports. She says: “Any enhancement to the quadrangle to welcome the public is an enhancement to the Gallery and our business. We have 30,000 visitors a year, many of whom have difficulty finding us because many people believe the quadrangle to be a private area. An enhancement to the space will allow us to act as a cultural hub for the University and encourage people to linger longer in its environs.”

The aesthetic, functional and business benefits that the Quad makeover will bring are indeed numerous but, above all, the redevelopment of the Quad will reinforce Old College’s status as the University landmark, and will signal the pride the University takes in the historic building. John Leishman says: “Old College is the flagship building for the University. The redevelopment will reinforce its position and its permanence.”
Talbot Rice Gallery is the public art gallery of the University of Edinburgh. The Gallery has a commitment to showing exhibitions of work by Scottish and International artists, promoting knowledge, understanding and new ideas through thematic exhibitions, events and publications.

The University’s permanent collection is housed in the Georgian Gallery and the current display consists of the Torrie Collection of Old Master paintings and bronzes.

A dynamic education programme is presented throughout the year, check www.trg.ed.ac.uk for listings or email info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk to sign up to a free bulletin providing further information.

Admission to all exhibitions is free.

Friends of the Talbot Rice Gallery

By organizing fund-raising activities, lectures and visits, Friends help support the work of the Gallery projects. One particular aim of the Friends is to encourage visits to privately owned works of art not normally on display to the public. Further information on the Friends can be found on the website. Applications are available in the Gallery.

The friends are currently recruiting for an Honorary Secretary to join the Committee. Please call the Gallery Administrator on 0131 650 2211 if you would like further information about this opportunity.

22 April – 3 June 2006
Divided Selves: The Scottish Self-Portrait from the 17th Century to the Current day
20 June – 2 September 2006
The Fleming Collection, London

The University of Edinburgh and the Talbot Rice Gallery are proud to present Divided Selves, a collaboration with the Fleming Collection. This major exhibition showing the first comprehensive survey of the history and distinctive character of the self-portrait in Scottish art is launched at the Talbot Rice Gallery in April 2006. The exhibition not only includes the finest examples of the Scottish self-portrait but also traces its varied development within the constant changing social history of Scotland from the 17th century up to the present. This wide-ranging survey of a truly fascinating topic will include over 80 works in a variety of different mediums and modes of presentation - from painting and sculpture to photography and video installation.

17 June - 15 July 2006
Margot Sandeman

4 August - 30 September 2006
GirlPower-BoyHood

14 October - 2 December 2006
Lucy McKenzie

20 January - 10 March 2006
Jamie Shovlin, Aggregate

17 June - 15 July 2006
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Edinburgh makes Legal history

From Charles Erskine, the first Chair of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations in 1707, to the recently-conferred Professor Emeritus of Medical Law, Alexander McCall Smith, the University of Edinburgh can boast a fine tradition, stretching 300 years, of developing first-rate legal education. As the University launches its Law tercentenary campaign, *Edit* celebrates the School of Law’s special anniversary with two of its eminent professors.

**At almost 300 years old, Edinburgh’s School of Law is older than the piano, the telephone, the automobile and even Old College, the building which houses it today.**

A series of events, including receptions, lectures, reunions and honorary graduations, begins this summer to celebrate next year’s special anniversary, which marks 300 years since Charles Erskine, the first chair of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations, was appointed. Almost 300 years on, the holder of that position today, Professor Sir Neil MacCormick says: “Law teaching at Edinburgh has gone from strength to strength and the tercentenary is a good moment to pause and take stock.”

And there is plenty to reflect upon throughout the School’s 300-year history. Professor MacCormick reminds us: “Over the 300 years, the School of Law has produced more of Scotland’s judges and senior advocates than any other institution. Generation by generation this law school has produced a huge number of distinguished public servants and figures of public life in Scotland and beyond.

His colleague Professor John W Cairns, the Professor of Legal History agrees: “Edinburgh graduates have a dominant role on the bench, but are also found in many other walks of life, such as Neil MacGregor, who was the first director of the British National Gallery, and is now the director of the British Museum.”

The exciting programme of events provides a vital opportunity for the School of Law to enhance its links with former students, something that Professor MacCormick is keen to achieve. “[The Tercentenary] is a good chance to re-establish better relationships. It’s good for graduates to remember that the University takes pride in their achievements,” he says.

The anniversary not only provides a chance to reflect, and reunite, but also to look to the future. An ambitious campaign has been established to secure funding for a range of projects that will help enhance the continuing standards of excellence that the School has long been associated with. The projects include the establishment of a new Chair in MedicalJurisprudence position, a programme of Tercentenary scholarships and bursaries, the Tercentenary Fellowship, developments to the Law Library and the creation of a purpose-built moot court facility.

Professor MacCormick stresses the importance of the Tercentenary campaign: “It provides the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of legal education to the community at large, the University community and to reinstate the significance of this law school in the world of international legal scholarship.”

He adds: “We already have high visibility and quality and it’s a chance to wave the flag higher.”

To find out more about the campaign and the programme of events, visit [www.edinburghcampaign.com/campaign/tercentenary.aspx](http://www.edinburghcampaign.com/campaign/tercentenary.aspx)
Happy Birthday, James Clerk Maxwell!

What is light? How can it travel through empty space? Why does it never slow down? How can you connect a phonewithout wires? Why does it neverslow down? How can you connect a phonewithout wires? What are Saturn’s ringsmade of? And how did a 19th-centuryScotsman answer these questions justby thinking about them?

After graduation from the University ofEdinburgh with distinction, Maxwellwent on to become one of the mostinfluential physicists of the 19th century. His research was to have profoundimplications for the way we view reality,and led to some of the most importantdiscoveries of modern times. In definingthenature of electricity, gases, magnetismand light, Maxwell paved the way forthe invention of everything from radarto mobile phones, and even Einstein’sTheory of Relativity. Einstein once said:“One scientific epoch ended and anotherbegan with James Clerk Maxwell.”

For more information about theprogramme of events log on to www.maxwellyear2006.org/html/events.html

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New Collection for St Cecilia’s Museum

An outstanding collection of musicalinstruments now has a new home atthe St Cecilia’s Hall Museum ofInstruments thanks to the generosity ofbenefactors Rodger and Lynne Mirrey.Dr Rodger Mirrey started collectingkeyboard instruments in 1956 andas the collection grew over the years hewas welcomed many visitors, includingwell-known scholars and players, to theirhome to see and play the instruments.

The instruments that form the RodgerMirrey Collection stem from most ofthemajor instrument-making traditionsand span approximately 250 years fromthe earliest to the latest.

The Collection remarkably forms aperfect complement to the existingequipment in the University ofEdinburgh Collection. There is essentiallyno duplication of models – even in instruments by the same builder– with others already in the University’sCollection being notably different. Mostof the instruments are in good playingcondition, several having been restoredand documented by leading experts.

Following a meeting of the BritishClavichord Society held at St Cecilia’sHall, Rodger Mirrey stated his preferencefor keeping his collection intact andrather than sell it, or parts of it, decidedto donate the entire collection to St Cecilia’s Hall.

St Cecilia’s Hall is the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland, acquired bythe University of Edinburgh in 1959 to provide a home for the collection of early keyboard instruments within the Faculty ofMusic (now part of the School of Arts,Culture and Environment). The two collections, now housed in St Cecilia’s Hall,illustrate the history of keyboardinstruments from the sixteenth to thenineteenth century.

For more information see www.russellcollectionfriends.org

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Scottish & Newcastle Fund Russian Scholarships

Students from Russia are to benefit fromthe first programme of scholarships forstudents from the University ofEdinburgh funded by Scottish & Newcastleplc. Twelve Russian post-graduate studentsover the course of five years will beawarded the scholarships, which willtotall a quarter of a million pounds. Halfof the scholarships have been allocatedto the Management School.

The Principal, Professor TimothyO’Shea, said: “This is a significantvote of confidence in the University ofEdinburgh that will do more thanchange 12 lives, Russia is entering itsseventh straight year of growth and,thanks to Scottish & Newcastle, we willsoon be supporting students who willgo on to do great things for Russia.”

For more information about theprogramme of events log on to www.maxwellyear2006.org/html/events.html

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Chinese Film Festival First

The University of Edinburgh is the firstinstitution in the world to sign up to anambitious initiative which makes it possible tobring Chinese films to Scotland for thefirst time in a world-class event. The UKfestival of Chinese cinema, Cinema China,will be the UK’s biggest-ever festival ofChinese cinema. It represents a milestone inScottish/ Chinese relations, underpinningthe University’s founding of the Confucius Institute in Scotland.

Presented at the Filmhouse in January2007, the festival will show 25 to 30 films from silent movies of the 1930s (accompanied by live music includingoriginal pieces) to new films with China’shottest young stars. Few countries haveundergone more upheaval in the lastcentury and throughout, Chinesefilmmakers have been eyewitnesses.

The festival will be on tour in cinemasaround the country and will beaccompanied by special events involvingChinese film-makers, cultural exchangesand an academic symposium.

Over the period of two weeks each filmwill be introduced by the festival organisers, Dr Dorota Ostrowska and Mark Cousins, film critic, broadcaster and journalist.

Dr Ostrowska commented: “TheUniversity of Edinburgh will benefit fromthesuccess of this venture on a number oflevels. Firstly, it places the University asahub of teaching and research expertiseon China. On an academic level the symposium will underpin the work of the Confucius Institute, bringing together FilmStudies, Chinese and Cultural Studies, greatly benefiting research in and acrosseach area and enhancing recruitment ofMSC and PhD students. With such a high-profile event, we would be seekinginternational press coverage, supportedby a television documentary produced by Scottish & Newcastle is proud to further support the strong links between Russia and Scotland. We have a long and proud tradition of supporting the exchange of people, ideas and values between Edinburgh and Russia. I look forward to meeting the first students and to the contribution they will make in further strengthening the relationship between our two nations.”

Scottish & Newcastle plc owns 50% of Baltic Beverages Holding, which in turn owns a majority stake in Russia’s market leader Baltika Breweries.

This announcement is a continuation of a 100-year relationship between theUniversity of Edinburgh and Scottish & Newcastle. In 1886 Sir William McEwan, MP and Chairman of thebrewing company that later becamepart of Scottish and Newcastle, stepped in to fund the construction of the McEwan Hall, a popularEdinburgh landmark that is used for graduation ceremonies to this day.

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The General Council/The University of Edinburgh in Paris, June 2006

Tickets are still available for the weekend of events on 16 and 17 June in Paris. To book your place, please go to www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk to download an application form, or contact Development & Alumni at the address on page 25.

The programme of events for the weekend is as follows:

**FRIDAY 16 JUNE**
- 12.30pm – 6pm: Let’s Talk Business – Seminar at the British Embassy, Paris
- 6pm – 7.30pm: Reception, Embassy Terrace and Garden

**SATURDAY 17 JUNE**
- 10.30am: General Council Meeting, Cité Internationale Universitaire
- 1pm: General Council Lunch, Cité Internationale Universitaire
- Afternoon: Guided tour of Cité Internationale Universitaire
- 7.30pm – 10.30pm: Reception and Gala Dinner, Le Senat, Palais de Luxembourg

We look forward to welcoming you to Paris in June.

Chemical Engineering at Edinburgh 50 Years Old

The 2005/06 academic year marks the Golden Jubilee of Chemical Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, which is being celebrated with a symposium and other events in June.

The highlight of the night for many was the memoirs of Professor HT Bracewell, a former member of the Fencing Club. This included how he first became interested in fencing and in particular how the war helped him develop his skills. He then moved on to his time at the fencing club, providing both humorous anecdotes and an insight into some of the many differences that exist between what fencing was like in his time as opposed to the modern day.

The fencing club is currently in the process of creating an alumni club for all past members. This will enable former members of the club to re-establish contact and keep up to date with how the club is currently performing, enjoy social activities, and if demand enables, create a regular fixture between the current members and the alumni.

Any former members of the club who are interested in joining the alumni club should email e.fencing@gmail.com or write to: Edinburgh University Fencing Club, c/o EUIUS, Sports Union Office, 48 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ.

For information regarding the current club please take a look at our website at www.eufc.org.uk

Fencing Club 75 years

Fencing at Edinburgh can be traced as far back as 1779, although it was not until 1866 that a hall was regularly set aside for it. In the early part of the 20th century, under the guidance of Colonel RB Campbell, the first Director of Physical Education, the sport became increasingly prominent. This culminated in the creation of a formal fencing club, with the first committee meeting being held on 16 October 1930.

So in February 2006, the present-day fencing club celebrated their 75th anniversary with a dinner in Blonde restaurant, attended by present and a good number of past members.

Psychology Centenary

It is still not too late to sign up for the all-day symposium on Friday October 27 2006. Details can be found on the psychology website at www.psy.ed.ac.uk or by contacting the Centenary Secretary at Psychology, 7 George Square, EH8 9LZ.

This will be a celebration of the department both past and present with alumni speakers including Professor Gus Craik from Toronto University (BSc 1960) and Dr Alison Elliot (PhD 1976) the first woman moderator of the Church of Scotland in 450 years.

The symposium will be followed in the evening by a celebratory ceilidh party at 7 George Square.

Looking further ahead, we are holding an Alumni Dinner in the Playfair Library with deputy leader of the House of Commons, Mr Nigel Griffiths MP (MA 1977) as guest speaker, together with an associated exhibition and talks on Saturday June 30, 2007. Again details are available either at the website or from the Centenary Secretary directly.

The Management School continues to attract support from both graduates and companies to help the work of both staff and students and would like to thank and acknowledge its donors.

In a wonderful commitment to the School, Scottish & Newcastle recently announced scholarships totalling £120,000 to 4 Russian students, who are eager to follow postgraduate business courses here. See page 21 for full details.

Dr Joseph Stanislaw, a School alumnus, has established a research fund in his own name worth £50,000 over five years to support work in the area of energy, sustainable development and growth.

The Citigroup Foundation has renewed and increased its funding to our financial programmes in the School including visiting speakers from the US, specialist software and specialist case studies worth $68,500. This builds on support of $50,000 received last year and further enhances our relationship with the company.

As part of the MBA 25-year anniversary celebrations, the School is seeking support for a number of scholarships to help students from Africa and Latin America. Thanks to one of our first donors, Mr Gordon McCulloch, a University alumnus, whose support will enable five students to study here.

Contact Joanne Finnie on Joanne.finnie@ed.ac.uk for more information.

The University of Edinburgh New College 160th Anniversary Celebration Friday 16 - Sunday 18 June 2006

New College will be 160 years old in June and New College Library in its present location will be 70 years old.

All former students are warmly invited to come back for this major occasion of reunion and celebration, which will include presentations, dinners, an exhibition and ample opportunities for meeting old friends.

**Friday 16 June evening**
- 6pm: Reception and Photo Display of Past Events and People, in the Martin Hall
- 7pm: Dinner, in the Rainy Hall, chaired by the Principal of New College, Professor Graeme Auld

**Saturday 17 June morning and afternoon** in the Assembly Hall
- 10am – 4pm: Anniversary Lecture by Lord Sutherland of Houndwood followed by presentations from the School, the media and the impact of New College.
- Pre-lunch drinks and lunch in the Rainy Hall, opportunity to view an exhibition in New College Library of its Special Collections of rare books and manuscripts and to tour New College.
- Saturday 17 June evening in the Playfair Library, Old College
- 7pm: Festive Dinner – chaired by the Head of the School of Divinity, Professor David Fergusson.
- Sunday 18 June morning
- 11am: Anniversary Service in Greyfriars Playfair Library, Old College
- 1pm: Afternoon options: Border Abbeys Tour or Scottish Parliament Visit.
- For full details of the programme, costs, accommodation options, and to book your place, please contact Andrew Morton, Alumni Officer, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh EH1 2LX, Andrew.Morton@ed.ac.uk or go to www.div.ed.ac.uk/anniversary.html

**Chemical Engineering at Edinburgh 50 Years Old**

The 2005/06 academic year marks the Golden Jubilee of Chemical Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, which is being celebrated with a symposium and other events in June.

The Golden Jubilee is being celebrated with a symposium and dinner on 16 June 2006. All those who have some current or past association with the Department and its predecessors (including Chemical Technology and Technical Chemistry) and their families are invited to these events in June.

A number of year reunions are also planned around the celebrations. If you would like to find out if your year is having a reunion or would like to organise a reunion for your year, please contact the chairman of the organising committee, Dr Mark Biggs, Institute for Materials and Processes, Kenneth Denbigh Building, King’s Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JL, m.biggs@ed.ac.uk.

You can find out more by visiting www.chemeng.ed.ac.uk

The Management School continues to support from both graduates and companies to help the work of both staff and students and would like to thank and acknowledge its donors.

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**Management School Appeal Progresses**

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**Alumni questionnaire prize draw**

The winners of the 2006 alumni questionnaire prize draw were Mr & Mrs MacCormick. We wish them a very enjoyable two-night stay at Peebles Hotel Hydro.
Reunions in 2006

1946 MB ChB  
Joan Campbell & Joyce Granger  
17 - 18 May 2006, Braid Hills Hotel

1950 BSc Geography  
John Barclay  
11 August 2006, 11am, Raeburn Room, Old College

1954-56 Chemistry students  
Dilly Jaffar-Smith  
27 September 2006, 7pm, Raeburn Room, Old College

1955 BSc Chemistry  
Dr Rod Nisbet  
27 May 2006, 6.30pm for 7pm, Raeburn Room, Old College

1955 - 1957 Economics  
John Wanstall  
Date and venue tbc

1956 MA Classics  
Mr Ian Macaskill  
5 July 2006, Elder/Lee Rooms, Old College, Edinburgh

1956 BSc Agriculture Ordinary  
Dr Ronald Harkess OBE  
1976 German  
18 - 21 May 2006, Peebles Hydro

1956 BSc Chemistry  
Alastair Kerr & Roy Nelson  
June 2006  
Kendal, Cumbria

1957 Divinity  
Andrew Ross & Stewart McGregor  
1966 BVM&S  
27/28 April 2007

1959 BSc Agriculture  
James Logan  
18 November 2006, Edinburgh

1960 BSc Physics  
Doug Frielson  
Mid October 2006, England

1961 MB ChB  
Judith Hodgson  
6 September 2006, Kandel, Cumbria

1961 BSc Agriculture  
Mrs Susan McDonald  
14 October 2006, Raeburn Room

1962 BSc Agriculture  
James Logan  
18 November 2006, Edinburgh

1962 MB ChB  
Dr Fiona Macgregor  
9 - 11 June 2006, Peebles Hydro

1963 BSc Agriculture  
James Logan  
18 November 2006, Edinburgh

1964 BDS  
Dr Hugh Reid  
9 - 11 June 2006, Peebles Hydro

1965 Chemical Technology & Chemical Engineering  
Mark Milligan & James McPhee  
15 - 17 June 2006, Edinburgh

1965 BSc Agriculture  
Jonathan McDonald  
14 - 16 June 2006, Edinburgh

1966 BDS  
Eric Bathurst & Alan Lafferty  
September/October 2006, Edinburgh

1966 BVM&S  
Karl Linklater  
5 - 8 October 2006, Edinburgh

1966 MB ChB  
Ruth Macfarlane  
1 - 3 September 2006, Peebles Hydro

1967 BSc Agriculture  
Kath Dixon  
June 2006, Edinburgh

1967 Mechanical Engineering  
Don Grant  
Date & venue tbc

1971 BDS  
Ian Lafferty  
18 - 21 May 2006, Vancouver

1976 German  
Anna Simon & Ian Manning  
Summer 2006

1981 BSc Agriculture  
Mrs Susan McDonald  
14 October 2006, Raeburn Room

1981 BVM&S  
Sally Stuart  
Date & venue tbc

1986 BDS  
Carole Tweedie  
6 October 2006, Edinburgh

1986 MB ChB  
Dr Fiona Macgregor  
9 - 11 June 2006, Peebles Hydro

1986 BSc Agriculture  
James Logan  
18 November 2006, Edinburgh

1986 BSc Geography  
Andy Main  
30 September 2006, Edinburgh

1990 BDS  
Miss Julie Forde  
3 June 2006, Prestonfield

1992 MB ChB  
Dr Drummond Begg  
23-25 March 2007, Peebles

Reunions in 2007

1947 MB ChB  
Jim Ingles  
6 July 2007, 12 noon, Braidwoods Restaurant, Dalry, Ayrshire

1957 Divinity  
Andrew Ross & Stewart McGregor  
Date & venue tbc

1957 MB ChB  
Graham MacAskill  
September 2007, Peebles - tbc

1962 MB ChB  
Dr Hamesh P.  
6 - 8 June 2007, Peebles

1969 Chemical Engineering  
John Warnock  
27 May 2006, 11am, Raeburn Room, Old College

1972 BSc Agriculture  
Mr John Marshall  
October/November 2007

1992 MB ChB  
Dr Drummond Begg  
23-25 March 2007, Peebles

For further information, please contact:  
Development & Alumni, The University of Edinburgh  
Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT

Tel +44 (0)131 650 2240  
Fax +44 (0)131 650 2239

Email edinburghcampaign@ed.ac.uk  
www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Informed

Does 2006 mark a significant anniversary of your graduation from the University of Edinburgh? Perhaps five, ten, 25, even 50 years? Maybe your class is already planning a reunion – that’s great and hopefully we already know about it, but if not please let us know. If you haven’t started organising your reunion yet, then don’t worry, it’s not too late. Development & Alumni can help you to contact your former classmates, find a venue, and give other general advice and assistance. Simply visit our website at www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk or email beth.munro@ed.ac.uk to request a copy of our Guidelines on Organising a Reunion: We look forward to hearing from you.

For details of clubs, or reunions, or to make contact with a reunion organiser, please contact: Beth Munro, Development & Alumni, tel 0131 650 2240, email: beth.munro@ed.ac.uk or visit www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Guidelines on Organising a Reunion. We look forward to hearing from you.

For more information, please contact:
Development & Alumni, The University of Edinburgh
Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT
Tel +44 (0)131 650 2240  Fax +44 (0)131 650 2239
Email edinburghcampaign@ed.ac.uk  www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk
Catriona Macmillan  
BSc 1989, MBA 2002

Catriona Macmillan BSc 1989, MBA 2002 is currently rising to the challenge of setting up her own management consultancy focused on supporting SMEs. But this is nothing to the challenge she undertook last year – as a ‘legger’ on the world’s toughest yacht race, the Global Challenge.

The Global Challenge is a race in which 12 identical 72-foot yachts, each crewed by a professional skipper and 17 non-professional sailors, sail the ‘wrong’ way around the world, into the prevailing wind and tides. It sounds completely crazy and indeed when Sir Chay Blyth, the first man to sail solo non-stop round the world this way in 1971, initially suggested that it could be opened to amateurs, he was told it was impossible. Five successful races have since proved his critics wrong, but Catriona can testify that it is far from plain sailing.

“I was lucky enough to be selected to be a ‘legger’ onboard Me to You on what is widely acknowledged as being the toughest leg, the 6,200 miles from Sydney to Cape Town, across the infamous and inhospitable Southern Ocean. The sailing itself was very demanding, pushing not only to the limit physically, emotionally and mentally, but frequently pushing well beyond those limits and helping others to do the same.

The race, however, is about much more than that. It involves teamwork, communication, planning, strategy, tactics, negotiation, budgeting, control, performance measurement and performance optimisation – fortunately all key elements of the Edinburgh MBA!”

When, five years ago, I gave up a permanent post as a linguistics lecturer to write fiction, I could hardly blame those people who assumed I was having a breakdown. I had no publisher, no agent, no body of work, no reason to think there was any future in it. My first novel, into which I poured decades of pent-up creativity, was clearly destined for a drawer but it did get me an agent on its way. At my second attempt, I decided to write to please no one but myself and what came out was a 1920s-set detective story – *After the Armistice Ball*. This was published in July 2005 by Constable, who were happy to make it the first of a series. It sold out in hardback, was reprinted and sold out again and was shortlisted for the Ellis Peters Historical Dagger Award. The second in the series – *The Burry Man’s Day* – is published this July along with the paperback of book one.

In between times, I had also been writing a contemporary story, a time-travel caper which arose partly out of my semantics PhD on states of knowledge and possible worlds. Last summer I sold it to Orion as part of a two-book deal. Growing Up Again, as it is now called, will be published under the name Catriona MacCloud in January 2007 and the second in this strand – Straight Up – also a comedy, this time about truth and so still mining my PhD in a way, is due out a year after that.”

Professor Ian H Frazer MD FRCP BSc (M) 1974 MB ChB 1977 has been awarded the Australian of the Year Award 2006. Professor Frazer founded and leads the University of Queensland’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research. For 20 years he has been researching the link between papilloma viruses and cancer, seeking ways to treat these viruses in order to reduce the incidence of cancer. Ian has now developed vaccines to prevent and to treat cervical cancer, which affects 500,000 women each year. A vaccine based on his research has shown the potential to virtually eradicate cervical cancer within a generation. Expected to be on the market within a year, this vaccine will revolutionise women’s health across the globe.

Ian embodies Australian know-how, determination and innovation. He describes the fortnight of celebratory activities after receiving his award as ‘exciting ... physically, emotionally and mentally, but frequently pushing well beyond those limits and helping others to do the same.

Ian is now looking forward to the challenge of his new responsibilities, and pursuing the goals he has set himself as Australian of the Year. “I will promote the benefits of biomedical research, encourage the funding of facilities for research, and talk about the prevention of cervical cancer worldwide. I intend to engage the Australian community about what it means to be Australian, which I hold to be measured by the extent to which we each take part in our community by doing good for others.”

Ian H Frazer  
MD FRCP BSc (M) 1974  
MB ChB 1977

Mahdad Saniee, MA 1982, established Saniee Architects of Greenwich, Connecticut, USA in 1995 after spending 10 years as the senior associate with the renowned architectural firm Centerbrook Architects. Mr Saniee has received numerous design awards for work carried out as an individual or in collaboration with Centerbrook Architects including its original founder, the late Charles Moore. Mr Saniee’s work has been featured in the New York Times, Architectural Digest, Architectural Record, and numerous design publications in the United States. His work has been exhibited in New York City and Boston. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 2005, Saniee Architects received the 2005 Emerging Architect Award from the American Institute of Architects in Connecticut. This biennial programme highlights a member firm that has gained recognition in the general design community through a body of overall work and continued commitment to design excellence. The firm must have been in practice no less than five years and no more that 15. The jury felt that Saniee Architects presented a cohesive body of work that exemplifies consistent design excellence.

Mr Saniee lives in Easton, Connecticut with his wife, Azar Behjati and their two children, Annis and Olya. He is currently engaged in a 5-year-old children’s education program focused on elimination of religious prejudice, with outreach activities in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, Southern Africa, the Middle East, India, and Russia.

Mahdad Saniee  
MA 1982
As I write this General Council update, the final plans are coming together very well for our much-anticipated Half-Yearly Meeting in Paris on 17 June 2006. This establishes and continues the record of how every statutory meeting in a major centre other than Edinburgh, with alternate Annual meetings being held in various University locations in Edinburgh, and all February monthly meetings continuing in Old College. This provides an opportunity for groups of our distant members to participate more easily from time to time. The forthcoming Half-Yearly Meeting in Paris will be particularly notable, as it will be the first held in the UK since 1858 when the General Councils were established. The historical links from Scotland and France are strong, and there are some good transport links between Paris and many other European centres. It is no surprise that many of our members live and work outside Scotland. I am fortunate in my own business colleagues, and I have recently met Edinburgh University alumni groups for the USA, Australia and Japan. In every case, the continuing level of interest in and willingness to participate in and assist our University is very notable.

An excellent programme of events is planned for 16 and 17 June. Full details of all the events can be found on page 34 of this issue of the Billet within and a booking form is also printed on the rear inside cover of Ed. Further detailed information about other aspects such as transport and hotels can be found on the General Council website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk. As events are necessarily limited in capacity, I would urge you to return your booking form quickly as a 'first-come-first-served' policy will apply. I am most grateful to the Secretary of General Council and her colleagues for their enormous contribution to organizing this event.

The rapid pace of business in the University and General Council continues well. We have an opportunity to bid forward and thank most sincerely our outgoing Rector, Dr Tam Dalley, in February. In spite of a busy Parliamentary Week, and a multiplicity of commitments during most of his period as Rector, Tam has dealt with an extremely high priority as his role as Rector, and worked very hard for the University, and in particular, for the students. We are also grateful to Prof. Dr. David Macdonald, who is still with us for the next two years. Patrick Woodburn is also a regular member of our Half-Yearly Meetings, and has greatly added to our well-rounded (and a highly active, expect, life retirement).

The introduction of online voting significantly increased voter participation in this year’s Rectorial Election, and we are delighted to welcome Mark Ball MdB as our new University Rector, and we look towards working with him over the next three years. Much of the hard work of the General Council is undertaken by our Standing Committees. Details of the Committees’ work are provided in the Annex to the Billet. Current highlights during this period are a review of a procedure for the University’s irregular and developing the General Council website (Public Affairs), supporting Development Alumni (Finance and Services), and becoming informed about the University’s policies on rearing (Academic). The University’s publication Ed with the General Council’s Ed within is undergoing a major review, and the Secretary of the General Council is very involved in this. This General Council is planning to host a reunion in Old College during the International Festival as an opportunity for our members attending the Festival to revisit their University. The event will take place from 5pm to 6pm on Friday 18 August 2006, and will be associated with the opportunity to visit the Festival exhibition at the Tbilat Gallery Rice. We very much hope that all of you will find time to attend, and we urge all members will attend. Details can be found at page 33 of this issue of the Billet within, and a booking form is printed on the rear of the inside cover of Ed.

We continue to publish fully in many University events, and are pleased to co- operate closely with Development Alumni. As I have already announced, we have changed the date of the February 2007 Half-Yearly Meeting to Saturday 3 February 2007, so that the General Council Meeting does not clash with the University’s celebrations for the Tercentenary of the Chair of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations planned for the next weekend.

Before then, I hope to meet many of you in Paris in June when our distinguished principal guest and also-Lunch speaker on that occasion will be the Chancellor of the University, the Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom.

The University's General Council of Edinburgh

UPDATE

The General Council is the body which 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 governing body, the General Council 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 General Council, visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2006

AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

1. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2006

2. MATTERS ARISING

3. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

4. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

5. NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

6. PRESENTATION BY THE PRINCIPAL

7. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2006

Present:

Dr Tam Dalyell
Rector, in the Chair

Mr Melvyn Cornish
University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council

Professor Timothy O’Shea
Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh

Dr Ann Matheson
Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh

Mr Alan Johnston
Convener of the Business Committee

55 other members

The Rev Peter Clark
opened the meeting with prayer.

The Rector announced that the five new meeting venues in Old College had been explored with University Estates since the last meeting, but although two other venues were viewed, neither was more suited than the normal meeting room. The Principal commented that the matter of Alexander Graham Bell memorials, which had been mentioned at the last meeting, was being taken forward within the University.

The February 2006 after-Lunch address of the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting in Paris on Saturday 17 June was progressing well. The Meeting and Lunch would be held in the Maison Internationale of the Cité Internationale Universitaire in the boulevard Jourdan in the 14th arrondissement, and there would be associated events organised by Development. The Principal thanked the University Estates and the University Secretary and Registrar for their support.

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The Principal said that it was a great pleasure to address the General Council, and to report that the University was doing outstandingly well.

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In terms of commercialisation, one of the achievements, and the reasons why the University was so well regarded by the Scottish Executive and by the leaders of Scottish political life was because it was so evidently making such important contributions to the Scottish economy. Just by being one of the major employers in Edinburgh and one of the major businesses in Scotland, but in other ways. Over the last five years, the University had been responsible for fifty companies being created, some of them student start-ups, some of them staff spin-outs. The key contribution the University had made to the Scottish economy was Wattson Microelectronics, whose share price was shooting up towards £500. More recently, MicroSensory Displays Ltd, which produce little TV screens about a quarter of the size of a thumb nail, had successfully gone into production.

The University had developed a very positive relationship with the City. The starting point had been a half-day when the Director of Estates, the President of the Students Association, and the Principal had addressed the whole City Council, which was followed by local meetings with councillors. It was very pleasing to see the pride the City took in the University, and the success with which the City wished to project the University as part of its image when it was trying to get more business and more tourism into the City. The biggest success recently was the achievement of the status of UNESCO World City of Literature, in which there was a very heavy participation from the University. The successful achievement of the status meant that students of literature and academics in literature would be in a much richer environment. The growing reputation of the City really helped the University with its growing international links. The University now had a very successful office in Beijing, and had hosted a visit from the Chinese Minister of Education, who was responsible for 200 million learners. It had been a very productive visit, and the Chinese had announced that they would fund a Confucius Institute located in the University, which would house visiting Chinese scholars.

The Principal drew attention in the Annual Review to the appointment of 65 new professors. They were divided about equally between those holding honorary professorships, those who had been awarded personal chairs and those who were appointed to established chairs. He commented on six of the appointments: Professor Ian Maitland, the person responsible for Daily the Sheep, had joined the University from Rothesay to a Chair in Reproductive Science; Professor Andrew Clark from the University of Indiana, who was known for his work on the philosophical implications of artificial intelligence, had been appointed to the Chair of Logic; and Metaphysics; Professor Paul Madden from Oxford, one of the most impressive chemists in the world, had been appointed to the Chair of Physical Chemistry; Professor Allan Cumming, who had a distinguished reputation for his work in completely revising the medical curriculum, had been awarded a personal chair in Medical Education; and Professor Simon von Heusingen, who had made a major contribution to ways of improving the quality of the student learning experience, had been awarded a personal chair in Student Learning.

In research, there were very many achievements, and the Principal highlighted three that were mentioned in the Annual Review: Professor Dorothy Crawford’s work on T-cell immunotherapy for rare brain cancers was very important work, since it had demonstrated cures for a small number of desperately ill people, and could have wider relevance; Professor Michael Banner had joined the University to run the Genomics Forum, and as an already established leader in advising on genomics and genomics for human and animal health, was in much higher demand; Professor David Leitch in Chemistry was a leader in nanotechnology and had developed the smallest molecular motors that were available. The University’s researchers had also received a tremendous boost by the research pooling resource from the Scottish Funding Council.

The University was well treated in the press, and its intellectual achievements and the achievements of its students received understanding treatment. Overall in UK rankings, the University was now rated by The Times as the fifth University of the Year in the Times Higher Education Supplement and consistently in the top 50 in the world rankings. The Principal commented that world rankings were computed in different ways: they could be based on publication impact, overall research output, or the success of students; and usually there was an element of peer review, asking academics from around the world. What was pleasing was that whichever way they were done, the University ended up in the top 50, and it was particularly pleasing that a large part of its work involved collaborating academically worldwide on the relative strength of different research areas in the universities.

The Principal commented on development, and expressed his thanks to all those who had donated to the University and to everyone who supported the University. Development was very important, and in helping not only talented students who otherwise wouldn’t be able to come to the University because of the financial circumstances of their families. There were key new facilities for which the University could not get support from Government, so it was very helpful when people assisted the University in that way. Dr Rodger Myine, for example, had recently given the University an outstanding collection of seventeen historic keyboards, which was a wonderful gift to the University, and reflected very well on the way in which the University had been seen to curate its existing magnificent collection of keyboards.

The Principal completed his report by commending the work of the General Council. A key part of its role was electing the Chancellor of the University, and the General Council’s role in promoting the University, and its governance, and a very important role in relation to development and fundraising. The Principal encouraged members who saw opportunities for the University either in fundraising, or in links, to contact the University, and he appreciated the very useful support provided. He referred to the General Council’s key role in committees; and he hoped that the General Council would in time do more in helping to project the University on the international scale, connecting it to alumni worldwide. The Principal commented that the forthcoming event in Paris was a great sign of confidence, and was also a very good way of reaching out to alumni who were not based in Scotland. He appreciated the role of General Council and key members, and he finished his report by expressing his thanks to members of the General Council.

The full text of the Principal’s remarks, and the record of the discussion following the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet.
Before the General Council Meeting

Right to left: Mr. Jim Crichton, Mace-Bearer, holding the Rector’s Mace, recently gifted to the University; Mr. Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee; The Rev. Peter Clark, Honorary Methodist Chaplain; Dr. Tam Dalyell, Rector; Professor Timothy O’Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; Mr. Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; and Dr. Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council.

GENERAL COUNCIL PARIS LUNCH GUEST SPEAKER

The General Council is delighted to welcome the Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom as the Guest Speaker at Lunch in Paris. Lord Cameron is Chancellor’s Assessor on the Court of the University of Edinburgh, and is a distinguished member of the Scottish Judiciary. He is active in a wide range of fields in Scottish public life, including the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, the Cockburn Association and the Scottish Civic Trust.

RECTOR’S MACE

At a reception in the Talbot Rice Gallery to mark the publication of his book on The Rectors of the University of Edinburgh 1859-2000, Mr. Donald Wintersgill kindly presented the University with the splendid Rector’s Mace, which is shown in the photograph above. The General Council is proud that the Mace was first used publicly at its Half-Yearly Meeting in February 2006, which was also the final Meeting chaired by Dr. Tam Dalyell as Rector of the University.

GENERAL COUNCIL HALF-YEARLY MEETING, LUNCH AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS: PARIS: 16 AND 17 JUNE 2006

The Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council on Saturday 17 June 2006 in Paris will be an historic occasion since it will be the first time that the General Council will hold one of its meetings outside the United Kingdom, and it follows on from the successful first meeting of the General Council in London in June 2004. The programme for the meeting and the weekend events arranged in association with the University’s Development & Alumni and the Association Alumni de l’Université d’Edimbourg en France are shown here. Tickets for all the events may be ordered on the request form provided on the rear inside cover of this issue of Edit. Further information is available on the General Council website at www.generalcouncil.ed.ac.uk, and on the Development & Alumni website at www.edinburghcampaign.org.

All General Council members are most warmly encouraged to come to Paris for the General Council’s first Meeting outside the United Kingdom, and to bring their guests to the Lunch afterwards, and also to the associated weekend events. It will be a very special occasion.

The General Council of The University of Edinburgh

PARIS WEEKEND PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2006

12.30 Business Seminar: ‘Let’s Talk Business’ The British Embassy, 35 rue du Faubourg St Honore

18.00 - 19.30 Drinks Reception The British Embassy, 35 rue du Faubourg St Honore

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2006

10.00 Coffee and croissants Gulbenkian Room, Maison internationale, Cité internationale Universitaire

10.30 General Council Half-Yearly Meeting Gulbenkian Room

12.30 Apéritifs Salon Honnorat

13.00 General Council Lunch Salon Honnorat

Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom MA LLB QC FRSE FRIAS

15.15 - 1715 Guided tour of the Cité Internationale Universitaire (organized by the Association Alumni de l’Université d’Edimbourg en France)

19.30 Development & Alumni Champagne Reception and Gala Dinner Salons Pourpre et Napoléon, Le Sénat, Palais du Luxembourg (by the kind assistance of Monsieur Georges Tron, Député de l’Essone)

The General Council is delighted to welcome the Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom as the Guest Speaker at Lunch in Paris. Lord Cameron is Chancellor’s Assessor on the Court of the University of Edinburgh, and is a distinguished member of the Scottish Judiciary. He is active in a wide range of fields in Scottish public life, including the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, the Cockburn Association and the Scottish Civic Trust.

Before the General Council Lunch on 11 February 2006

Right to left: Dr. Tam Dalyell, Rector; Professor Timothy O’Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Walter Nimmo, Alumnus of the Year 2004, who gave the after-lunch address; Mr. Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee; Mr. Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary; and Dr. Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council.
### Officers

**Chairman:** His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT  
**Secretary:** Ann Matheson, OBE, MA, Dip.Scottish Studies, LLitt, PhD, Hon DLitt  
**Registrar:** Meryn D Comish, BSc, PGCE, University Secretary  

#### General Council Assessors on the University Council:
- A Margaret Tal, BSc  
- Robin G Blair, LLB, MA  
- Gavin W T Scott, BCom, CA, MBA  

#### Business Committee:
- Convener: Alan M Johnston, MBA, CSci, CChem, FRSC, CBiol, FIBiol  
- Vice-Convener: Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch  

| Members |  
|---|---|---|  
| A | Convener of Academic Standing Committee. | 2008  
| F | Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee: Charles Y Y Lawson, BSc, CA, FSI  
| P | Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Roger S Windsor, MBE, MA, BSc, BHMS  
| C | Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: Ralph V Parkinson, MA Geography (Hons)  

#### Members
- A denotes a member of the Academic Standing Committee,  
- C a member of the Constitutional Standing Committee,  
- F a member of the Finance and Services Standing Committee, and  
- P a member of the Public Affairs Standing Committee:  

| Convener’s Assessor |  
|---|---|---|  
| The Rt. Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, MA, LLB, QC, FRSE, FRSA | ex officio |  

### Annex to the Billet

The text of the Annex to the Billet is now mounted on the General Council website at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/annextothebillet.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/annextothebillet.htm).  

Members who wish to continue receiving printed copies can do so by requesting from Communications and Public Affairs, University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicholson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE.  

Copies of the printed Annual Review may also be requested from the General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 1HT.


#### Name

#### Address

#### Postcode

#### Tel. No.  
#### Email

### (a) I/We wish to attend the Half-Yearly Meeting

#### No. of tickets

#### Total Cost

- Let’s Talk Business’ Seminar (£50/€50 per person, including reception)  
- Reception only (£25/€25 per person)  
- General Council Lunch (£32/€32 per person)  
- Gala Dinner (£70/€70 per person)

#### (b) I/We would like the following ticket/s.

#### (c) I/We wish to attend the Half-Yearly Meeting  

#### (d) Guests Names

#### Event(s) Attending

#### Any Dietary Requirements

Please complete and return this form to: Development & Alumni, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 1HT.

**Closing date for applications: Wednesday 24 May 2006.

### The General Council of the University of Edinburgh Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing: 18 August 2006

Please send me tickets (£10.00 per person) for the Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing.

A cheque for £_________ is enclosed, payable to The University of Edinburgh.

#### Name

#### Address

#### Postcode

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 by **Monday 14 August 2006.**
The Club with an International Dimension

50% joining fee discount for Edinburgh alumni

The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) has a long history of welcoming members from the UK and overseas to its London and Edinburgh clubhouses and providing a network of reciprocal clubs, branches or honorary representatives around the world.

The London clubhouse, comprising two period houses, is in a prime location bordering Green Park and near the Ritz Hotel. Over-Seas House has a private garden, al fresco dining, restaurant, buttery for light meals, bar, drawing room, 80 bedrooms and seven conference and private dining rooms. The Edinburgh clubhouse is centrally situated at 100 Princes Street.

Benefits of membership include economical central London pricing, varied events programmes, quarterly journal, discounts on certain cruises and tours, in-house art exhibitions and concerts, evening speakers and short term access to over 70 other clubs around the world in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, Gibraltar, Spain, USA and elsewhere.

EDIT magazine readers may enjoy specially discounted joining fees which range from £24 (resident overseas) to £56 (resident within a 50 mile radius of Charing Cross, London). The 2006 annual subscriptions (effective from 1 December 2005 if wished) range from £88 - £217.

For those aged 17 to 25 and students in full time education (up to the age of 30) the joining fee is waived and the annual subscription is £70.

For further information please contact the Membership Department, remembering to quote EDIT MAGAZINE.

Royal Over-Seas League

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(Enquiries: 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday - exts. 216 and 315)
Website: www.rosl.org.uk E-mail: info@rosl.org.uk