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Last year, only one issue of Edit appeared. While caused in part by the sad death in late 2001 of our founding editor, Anne McKelvie, we were also able to use this period to review the future pattern and form of the magazine.

We now start a new volume, reinstating twice-yearly publication, in January and May. Within Edit - alongside the customary news and features, regular columns and specific alumni and development pages - we welcome the Billet section from the General Council, which was formerly separately published, but will now become accessible to all graduates twice a year.

With the same aim of keeping Edinburgh’s publications cost-effective – as well, we hope, as relevant and appealing – this issue contains a brief summary of the University’s Annual Report, in place of sending individual copies to all graduates, though with an option for any who wish to access the full text.

It has, in my final year at the University, been a pleasure to produce Edit, before handing over the editor’s chair to Clare Shaw, who has recently joined the Communications team at Edinburgh. I hope our readers will continue to enjoy the magazine and to keep in touch.

Ray Footman
NATIONAL AIRPORT FOR SCOTLAND?

Researchers from the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow are currently undertaking a joint feasibility study into the potential benefits of a central Scottish airport. The idea of a single airport to replace both Edinburgh and Glasgow airports was mooted 20 years ago but the cost was thought to outweigh the benefits. Since then, however, air travel has become much more popular and economically much more important. Passenger volumes have risen dramatically but both Edinburgh and Glasgow airports are thought to lack the potential for much expansion, and lack the necessary transport facilities to cope with much greater numbers.

The Universities’ study will focus on the long-term benefits that a new airport could offer, and a report is expected in early 2003.

TIDE TURNS IN BOAT RACE

The tide of fortune turned in Glasgow University’s favour during an exciting day’s competition at the Walter Scott & Partners Edinburgh-Glasgow Boat Race on the River Clyde in June of last year.

Edinburgh’s second women’s eight opened the racing with a four lengths win. There were victories too for Edinburgh’s women’s graduates and mixed graduates teams. However, Glasgow went on to win four of the seven races.

In the best race of the day, the women’s first eights - involving Sydney Olympic Silver Medallist and 2001 Edinburgh Alumna of the year, Katherine Grainger - the lead changed hands three times until Glasgow eventually crossed the line first. The men’s first eights race was more one-sided, with Glasgow leading from the outset and winning easily despite a late challenge from Edinburgh.

Racing for the Edinburgh graduates’ men’s crew was race sponsor, Walter Scott, whose investment management company has supported the development of the event since 2000.

UNIVERSITY FLAG IN ORBIT

The University of Edinburgh was honoured by one of its alumni when he took a specially-commissioned flag bearing the University logo on his first mission into space. Dr Piers Sellers, who graduated with a BSc in Ecological Science in 1976, fulfilled a lifelong ambition when, in October, he boarded the Space Shuttle Atlantis on a mission to expand the International Space Station’s structure. The successful ten-day mission was the fifteenth shuttle flight in the construction of the massive complex and saw the team undertake three space walks.

Piers e-mailed the request for a UoE flag to his former lecturer, Professor John Grace. The two had kept in touch since a reunion in Brazil ten years ago, but Professor Grace was both surprised and delighted to hear that his former student was to travel into space and that he wanted to take the University’s flag with him.

The flag, made by tailoring and textile specialists Walker Slater in Edinburgh, measures 4ft x 2ft and had to meet strict space administration safety regulations. It is believed that Edinburgh is the first United Kingdom university to be represented in space.

Piers is only the third UK-born astronaut, and the second ever to walk in space, which he described as “breath-taking”.

EditEd
CHANCELLOR INAUGURATES NATIONAL E-SCIENCE CENTRE

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown officially opened the National e-Science Centre (NeSC) in the Spring of last year in Edinburgh, proclaiming it a “clear demonstration of the Government’s commitment to science and research, which includes specific funding for genomics, basic technologies and e-Science... and, a bold, exciting and worthwhile initiative which provides the e-Science community with a permanent home where it can share resources, ideas and facilities.”

The Centre, run jointly by the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, will spearhead the UK’s work on major e-Science initiatives that require huge computing resources and collaboration between scientists and industrialists both in the UK and around the world. It is housed in the converted church on South College Street formerly occupied by Edinburgh Research and Innovation.

More than 180 visitors heard from a wide range of speakers addressing the major issues facing the e-Science community and saw a number of pilot projects (‘demonstrators’) in action, showing how ‘Grid’ computing - using the combined power of distributed computers - could solve real-life e-Science challenges.

Underpinning the Grid is the idea of virtual organisations created to tackle specific projects, sharing computing resources and information. The challenge is to create the technology, working practices and organisational thinking that will allow members of virtual organisations to have ready, secure and seamless access to all shared resources.

A significant challenge in most scientific areas is the massive increase in the amount of data now available and used by researchers. In order to process, analyse and store this information new computing hardware and software needs to be developed; this is at the heart of e-Science. In the longer term this research will also benefit business, commerce and education.

UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR OPENS NEW MEDICAL PRECINCT

IN AUGUST the Chancellor, HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh, opened the new Medical School building - The Chancellor’s Building - at Little France to the south of the city, alongside the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. This represents a major milestone in the history of medicine in Edinburgh. It is the most modern facility of its type in Europe and in it the doctors of the future are being trained, using some of the most innovative approaches to the teaching of medicine.

The Chancellor visited the Clinical Teaching Resource Centre (below) and learned about the increasingly-sophisticated methods used to teach clinical skills, involving simulators, computer-aided learning and also mannequins for students to practice intubation, inserting drips and other techniques.

While touring the facilities the Duke of Edinburgh also presented prizes to the winners of a children’s art competition, organised in conjunction with the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The children were asked to draw a picture showing what doctors need to know to be good doctors.

ROYAL LAUNCH FOR SPORTS EXCELLENCE

IN OCTOBER, HRH The Princess Royal opened the brand-new world-class sporting facilities in the University’s Moray House School of Education. The facilities, which will be used to train Scotland’s Physical Education teachers and other sports professionals, include four gyms, an international-size sports hall, and a six-lane, 25-metre swimming pool with adjustable floor.

Professor Dave Collins, Head of Physical Education, Sport & Leisure Studies, points out: “The Department is growing from strength to strength. We are the major centre in Scotland responsible for the training of Physical Education teachers and we have two world class research units which are highly influential in the policy and planning of sport and exercise provision throughout the UK. In the Outdoor Education world, Moray House has long been a watchword for quality and innovation whilst the Department also boasts the largest collection of performance sport specialists within any Sports Science unit in Britain.”
IBM SHARED RESEARCH GRANT FOR INFORMATICS

THE UK e-Science programme has received a major boost from IBM with a Shared University Research (SUR) award to the University’s School of Informatics, including the donation of IBM’s flagship ‘Regatta’ server, valued at over one million pounds.

The project will develop advanced techniques for managing huge rafts of scientific information. Aside from the sheer scale of the exercise, the challenge is to tackle very varied data collections all over the world that have been compiled in such different ways it makes it difficult to compare them and obtain meaningful insights.

The challenge is to simultaneously address: heterogeneity, scale, distribution and autonomous evolution, in such a way that it becomes much easier to obtain insights for the total collection of data. This could lead to major advances in many fields including astronomy, biology and medicine.

UNIVERSITY PICKS NOVEL AND BIO WINNERS

THE 2002 WINNERS of Scotland’s oldest book award, the James Tait Black Literary Prize, were Sid Smith and Lord Robert Skidelsky (pictured above, right and left).

Smith picked up the fiction prize for Something Like a House while Skidelsky won the prize for biography for John Maynard Keynes: Fighting For Britain 1937–1946.

Sid Smith is now working as a sub-editor on The Times and The Guardian. He spent his early working life as a dustman, docker, builder’s labourer and railway worker before moving into journalism full-time. His second novel will be published shortly.

Robert Skidelsky is Professor of Political Economy at the University of Warwick and Chairman of the Social Market Foundation. He was Principal Opposition Spokesman, Treasury Affairs in the House of Lords from 1998–1999, when he was dismissed for his opposition to the Kosovo war. He lives at Tilton, Keynes’s old house in East Sussex.

The James Tait Black Memorial Prizes are awarded annually for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous year. Previous winners include D H Lawrence, E M Forster, Evelyn Waugh, Iris Murdoch, William Golding, James Kelman, Doris Lessing, Graham Swift, Beryl Bainbridge and Peter Ackroyd.

NEW COURSES ON OFFER FOR ALUMNI

THE UNIVERSITY’S Office of Lifelong Learning is offering an exciting range of short intensive summer courses in 2003, with a 10% discount of fees for University alumni.

Courses cover everything from the geology of Scotland to making your own radio programme. To find out more, call 0131 650 4400 for a brochure, or visit www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk.

HOLYROOD CELEBRATION OF INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURIALISM

ACADEMICS, BUSINESS leaders and venture capitalists gathered at Holyrood Palace in August to celebrate the innovation and collaboration that has given the University of Edinburgh a commanding role in the world of academic entrepreneurial achievement.

The event was hosted by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and organised by Edinburgh Technopole, the University’s Science and Technology Park. Guests included Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC; Iain Gray MSP; financier Sir Angus Grossart; keynote speaker David Wilhelm, former campaign manager for Bill Clinton’s successful bid for presidential office; and the then Principal, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood.

Inaugural innovation awards were presented to academics who have successfully developed their research into commercial enterprises, including Peter Denyer, founder of the Vision Group; Professor Sir Kenneth Murray, who developed the first vaccine against hepatitis B; and David Milne, founder of Wolfson Microelectronics (pictured centre left).

Technopole’s director, Sharon Bamford, commented: “It’s a tribute to our wonderful business and academic community that we can showcase the valuable contribution the University has made on a global stage.”
DARWIN IN EDINBURGH

THANKS MAINLY to an initiative from a trio of Edinburgh-linked Professors, Roger Short now at the University of Melbourne, Aubrey Manning and Seth Grant, Charles Darwin's eighteen months as a very young medical student, in the mid-1820s' University, is now publicly honoured on the site where he lodged with his brother Erasmus.

A handsome bronze plaque, incorporating a portrait of the young Darwin - somewhat unlike the better-known heavily-whiskered photos of his later life - has been erected on the south facade of the Royal Museum of Scotland, where Darwin's Lothian Street lodgings once stood.

Support for the project came from the University, the National Museums of Scotland and the Darwin Trust, which was established by UoE academic and inventor of the Hepatitis B vaccine, Professor Sir Kenneth Murray.

The plaque was unveiled by Sarah Boyack, one of Central Edinburgh's representatives in the Scottish Parliament, on 22 November and this was followed by a well-attended half-day seminar at the Museum. Entitled, 'Celebrating Darwin', the seminar, among other things, looked at what Darwin learned in Edinburgh from his brief medical career (thereafter dropped in favour of other pursuits...).

So the person who is described by the Edinburgh Evening News, as the 'City's most famous dropout' is at last properly and publicly commemorated in his erstwhile student home town.

ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS AT THE MET AND LA

AROUND 70 friends and American alumni of the University attended a private viewing of a major exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art entitled The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtry Art and Culture in Western Asia 1256-1353, to which the University Library recently agreed to lend two priceless Islamic art manuscripts.

Rashid al-Din's History of the World (a part of which was illustrated in the last issue of EDiT) and Abu al-Raihan al-Biruni's Chronology of the World, are two of the most significant works of Islamic art and are being displayed for the first time in the US.

According to Richard Ovenden, Director of the Library's Special Collections, "The manuscripts demonstrate the role the Mongol empire played in connecting the artistic traditions of China, Islam, and the west, and they stand at the beginnings of the great tradition of Persian manuscript painting."

The exhibition will run in New York until February 2003 before moving to the LA County Museum from March until July. American alumni of the University who live on the West Coast are being encouraged to attend the LA private viewing on 24 May.

photo (above): Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea (left) is seen here with the Islamic manuscripts at the New York Met, alongside Associate Curator of Islamic Art, Dr Stefano Carboni.)

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND BURSARY AWARDS

RECIPIENTS of this session's Royal Bank of Scotland Access Bursaries and their families met last term with representatives of the Bank and the Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea, at a reception in Old College to receive their awards for this year.

Since the Royal Bank of Scotland's University Access Programme was launched in 1999, the Bank has awarded 15 new Access Bursaries each year as part of the University's widening participation programme, and also supports the University's LEAPS Summer School.

This year's students - who will receive £1,000 a year for the duration of their course, plus the option of a paid summer work placement - came from all over Scotland and beyond, and are studying courses ranging from Civil Engineering and Chemistry to Primary Education and Fine Art.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Bursaries are part of the University's Access Bursary Programme. Currently, around 55 bursaries are awarded each year to students from state-funded schools or colleges who may otherwise not have attended university, although the University aims to increase this number to 150.

HOLLOWAY QUESTIONS LECTURE

THE RIGHT REVEREND Richard Holloway, former Bishop of Edinburgh, will deliver a public lecture for the University on 10 February, within the current Edinburgh Lectures series. Regarded as one of the most controversial and outspoken figures in the modern Church, he has written extensively on the problems of religious belief in the modern world, confronting and questioning complex ethical issues in the areas of sexuality, drugs and bio-ethics.

In his lecture, Richard Holloway will address The Freedom to Question, arguing that it is fundamental to moral and social evolution.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway has been a reviewer and writer for the broadsheet press and a frequent presenter on radio and television. He has written more than twenty books on religion and ethics, including Godless Morality, Doubts and Loves and his most recent publication, On Forgiveness.

This lecture will be held in Playfair Library, Old College at 6.00pm on Monday 10 February 2003. For advance tickets, contact the Usher hall on 0131 228 1155.
Facing the challenges

PROFESSOR TIMOTHY O’SHEA succeeded Lord Sutherland of Houndwood as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University on 1 October. A graduate of Sussex and Leeds Universities, he was a researcher in the Department of Artificial Intelligence at Edinburgh between 1974 and 1978, and subsequently worked in the United States and at the Open University, before joining the University of London where he was Master of Birkbeck College from 1998, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of London from 2001 and Provost of Gresham College from 2000. Ray Footman interviewed Timothy O’Shea following his appointment.

The University of Edinburgh is a world class institution with extraordinary strengths, and, over the next ten years, I intend to do all I can to ensure that the University is placed firmly at the intellectual heart of Scotland and the UK," explains Professor Timothy O’Shea.

"From that solid foundation, we can engage with our peers around the world. Edinburgh is a deeply international institution and has been since the eighteenth century," he continues.

"Our Medical School has influenced medical education around the world, our engineers trained engineers the world over and nowadays our computer scientists from the School of Informatics are also pushing forward the frontiers of science and placing Edinburgh firmly in the lead.

"We, and other universities in our peer group, have performed outstandingly well over the last fifteen or so years; however, unless there is a radical change in public funding we will continue to face serious financial challenges in the immediate future, to which we will have to respond entrepreneurially," he explains.

Whatever the outcome of the Government’s much-delayed higher education funding review - now due in January and about which speculation is currently rife - he is highly sceptical about whether ‘full’ tuition fees can provide a magic solution, either for the University of Edinburgh or for the higher education system as a whole.

Such fees are not on the UoE agenda and their introduction would not, in his judgement, be "an obviously intelligent move". Clearly he does not want to see higher education inadvertently becoming more selective. He is also sceptical that, even if ministers were prepared to face down potential opposition among the electorate, governments would really allow universities to benefit fully from the proceeds. Government grants might simply be reduced and universities could be left with similar problems to those they have now. In addition, the opposition to tuition fees in Scotland - which saw them dropped by the Scottish Parliament, in favour of a £2,000 'endowment contribution' from students after graduation - would make the notion of high-level tuition fees even more unlikely for Scottish higher education.

But there is widespread and growing recognition that, if standards are not to be put further at risk, government and universities must somehow realistically address the under-funding issue, given that the real value of money per student from public sources has virtually halved over the last couple of decades. But even the most optimistic would not see a solution being fully realised in the short term.

It therefore looks as though for the immediate future, universities will have to continue to devise ways of meeting their commitments within tight budgetary constraints - which is where some of his thoughts both about changing ways of supporting the teaching and learning process, and about looking for other sources of income, come into play.

In his judgement, the political champions of earlier generations, willing to put the case for supporting higher or liberal adult education, have been sadly lacking until recently. The political agenda has tended simply to focus around ‘more students’ or the ‘knowledge economy’, without encompassing the means adequately to support these. It is all-important now that there should be a continued exertion of pressures over the resource issue and he would like to see "university leaders and politicians working together to convince larger communities that greater tax support is merited".

Timothy O’Shea does not see as likely any early reduction in the demands placed upon universities, but his manner is far from pessimistic; he is well aware of Edinburgh’s many achievements, the quality of its teaching and research and its international standing. He clearly regards the financial factor as a challenge which must be solved, rather than as a depressingly insurmountable barrier.

GIVEN HIS WORK, both at the Open University and as head of the University of London’s Birkbeck College which has long provided a part-time path through higher education, it would be surprising if he did not show a personal enthusiasm for access issues and wider participation.

He explains: "when we look at the overall pattern of entries to university and combine this with the weakness of school exam grades as predictors of success at university then it is quite clear that we have still more to do to make our admissions processes more equitable." He goes on to cite Birkbeck as an example of a selective institution that has demonstrated a pattern of First and Upper Second degree results comparable to those of University College and LSE, and uses admissions criteria that do not "predominantly rely on ‘A’ levels.”

There is certainly no suggestion in his conversation that universities of high standing and with patterns of high demand for admission, such as Edinburgh, can or should somehow opt out from the access challenge. "I would say that access is particularly important for high status institutions like Edinburgh," he asserts. "In terms of equity and of identity it is clear that a university like Edinburgh has to work harder than many other universities to widen participation. Nevertheless, it is part of our mission to pursue excellence and improving access is part of this. We need to build on the hard work already being done in this area to get it right."

He also relates the demand for wider access to the current and prospective nature of the society and economy in which we now live where, for example, the need for mastery of facts and skills - including non-trivial, intellectual ones - in the population at large is already significant and will, in his view, continue to rise. This also reinforces the case for accepting the life-long learning process as a necessity, and for an overall pattern of higher education which is better articulated to the needs of those who may require to return repeatedly to education through their working lives.

"In terms of equity and of identity it is clear that a university like Edinburgh has to work harder than many other universities to widen participation. Nevertheless, it is part of our mission to pursue excellence and improving access is part of this. We need to build on the hard work already being done in this area to get it right". 
If the pressures upon traditional personalised teaching patterns arising from expanded student numbers will not ease, one part of the response, according to Timothy O'Shea, must be to develop more of an emphasis on supporting the learning process - rather than thinking you can teach 'more' - whether through new forms of digitised library resources or by other means. "Clearly supporting learning in different forms is vital.......the technology provided allows all sorts of ways of providing support which previously weren't available. And there will be almost no career where using the new technology won't be a part of it". Therefore "using new technology has got to be part of the experience of being a student and then, on top of that, there are particular ways in which technology can support individual learners or groups of learners..... where the tutor doesn't have to be physically present. We are only just at the very start of that." Without making use of such media, it is difficult to see how declining staff:student resources can either provide for adequate teaching or protect academic staff time to sustain research.

Timothy O'Shea believes that in teaching, as in many areas of its operations, the University’s great strengths in information technology can work to its advantage. Measuring success and the returns from higher education are also areas that attract his interest. To attempt to measure outputs is certainly valid he asserts, but you need to use the right criteria; to judge the success or significance of higher education simply on graduates' occupations some 6 months after degree attainment, for example, is a 'totally-flawed process'. These issues can only be properly addressed if you look at completion trajectories over 15 to 20 years. Similarly, crude data on initial non-completion rates by full-time students - low though these are in Britain, compared with many other higher education systems - do not tell us very much, without proper subsequent follow-up.

In the field of research, he says: "I hold the slightly unfashionable view that the (periodic national Research Assessment Exercises) RAE, conducted over the last fifteen years or so, have improved research in the United Kingdom", and is sympathetic to a system based on "open competition that any university can participate in", which allows for potential to develop. "We know that the most important and creative research very often happens at the boundaries, not in well-specified areas that map your current structures, so there has to be some open-ness and the possibility of change." Partly because of these changing boundaries, he welcomes the recent academic restructuring changes at Edinburgh, one objective of which is to make the University better prepared for trans-disciplinary initiatives. Yet the top-level research performance currently being delivered by universities such as Edinburgh, with its 'extraordinary strengths' is not being properly supported. The present RAE-based financial allocations formula simply attempts to 'spread the butter' too thinly. What is needed, he argues, is for the system to include provision for the top really-excellent 10% or 15% of research results to be funded at the highest rate, instead of believing a largely-fixed sum should simply be reallocated as more units get higher assessments.

Thus we currently have a situation where "teaching is under-funded a lot, research is under-funded a bit in recurrent terms and ...(we are)... certainly under-funded quite a lot in capital terms". And also embedded in the recurrent under-funding is the serious fall in the value of university salaries compared to other sectors.

TIMOTHY O'SHEA is also an enthusiastic supporter of collaborative ventures, as "a highly rational thing to do in all sorts of subject areas", particularly, again, with the wide-spread availability of the new technology, which makes such collaborations much easier. Each potential instance needs to offer "obvious added value to both partners and there has to be unambiguous value to Edinburgh", with its standing and fine teaching and research structure. Such arrangements, he argues, can "have a lot of mileage, a lot of benefit for both students and for research capability, and each side can also say to the taxpayer: 'you are getting more value as a consequence of the partnership'".

There is little doubt, he says, that universities are - and will be - key players in the country's future economic success. Promoting 'knowledge-based industry' will be vital to Scotland's economic prospects. It is very important that universities - and particularly institutions like Edinburgh, with their great strengths in the relevant disciplines - should continue to work in partnership with government, industry and agencies such as Scottish Enterprise, to try and see there is effective technology transfer and maximum take-up of university advances in research.

Edinburgh, he believes, given its standing, is also particularly well-placed for trans-national collaborative projects, whether with other universities museums and galleries, or even industrial laboratories. Globalisation, in his view, is now a 'very real' dynamic affecting higher education. The University is well-placed to take an active role in this, and "engaging with international students on and off campus and with high status overseas institutions that complement Edinburgh's special strengths, is part and parcel of this process. It is very important for Edinburgh, given its age and location in Scotland's capital, to continue to...operate as an international university".

As to Edinburgh’s ‘positioning’, Timothy O’Shea argues that "a large 400 year-old University has got to have multiple identities" comprehending the Edinburgh, Scottish and international dimensions. All can apply and the University will continue to operate at many levels, but he returns to the same theme: "each thing that is done should be done to a very high quality". And he does not overlook the public dimension in gaining the further public understanding and support for universities which he would like to see developed. He points to the ways in which he has encouraged colleagues to devote lots of energy to explaining their work through the media and other means. He is now also playing a lead role, in liaison with Lord Trotman, Ian Russell and Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in furthering the University’s Development Campaign, some of the early fruits of which - the ambitious plan for the new state-of-the-art £52million Medical Research Institute and the Scholarships Programme - are referred to elsewhere in this issue of EDIT.

Timothy O’Shea is the first Principal at the University since Michael Swann was appointed in the 1960s to have previously been on Edinburgh’s academic staff and he is delighted to return to the University and the City.
ROOT AND BRANCH INTELLIGENCE
Professor Tony Trewavas says he doesn’t tend to read articles about himself in newspapers. That’s a shame, because it means he hasn’t seen the superb job that the Scottish tabloid Daily Record made of his theories. Responding to his central concept—that plants are intelligent—the newspaper mocked-up a University Challenge between St Flowers, Oxford and Veg College, Cambridge (sample question: “Why do potatoes make good detectives? ... because they’ve always got their eyes peeled”).

Aside from spawning mischievous news features, however, Tony Trewavas knew his views, which have always been misreported in both the New Scientist and the respected journal Nature, would attract controversy. He believes that study of individual plants, in the wild, shows that far from being our dim-witted cousins, they behave in whatever way will maximise their chances of surviving and reproducing. In other words, they are intelligent.

For example, individual parasitic plants decide where to settle themselves depending on where they’ll get the best nutrients—rather like a stray dog choosing the butcher’s bin, not the greengrocer’s. Others, such as the stilt palm, will even move their base to ensure they get the most sunlight, which is the key to their survival.

“It’s time for people to go out and look at individual plants in the wild, to do what David Attenborough did and record what’s actually happening,” he says. “I’m convinced that we’ll find plants out there responding in a variable way to optimise their chances of survival—which is a definition of intelligence.”

Professor Trewavas, of the University’s Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology, smiles as he admits that his theories have not been well-received by plant biologists. Orthodoxy suggests that plants do not have intelligence, they have reflexes. Orthodoxy also says that we test plants in laboratory or hothouse conditions and finally, to be cynical, it all but insists that plant research has to lead to some financial good, such as crops which are grown more economically. None of the above can be said for proving plant intelligence.

He also confesses that some of those who have shown support have been, as he politically-correctly puts it, ‘nits’. It’s easy to see why. Labelling plants as intelligent surely smacks of some more extreme movements. Is he a fruitarian, for example, someone who goes beyond vegetarianism to refuse to eat anything which hasn’t fallen off a plant or tree and therefore ‘died naturally’? To Tony Trewavas, is pulling a carrot from the ground to an untimely death akin to murder? Will we, in several years time, see a bill of rights for vegetables in the same way as we are now recognising that animals deserve better treatment as a matter of course?

“No,” he laughs. “I don’t believe that plants feel pain. They don’t have a nervous system. But I do believe we should treat all living organisms with respect. I’m not vegetarian, but I believe farm animals should be treated with respect. The same is true for plants. I don’t think we’re heading for a Gaia backlash.”

Tony Trewavas, a keen exponent of genetically-modified organisms, does not appear at first to be a keen follower of the earth goddess and he will, without hesitation, debunk any suggestion that talking to plants, for example, has any effect at all (pace Prince Charles). But there is real sincerity in his plea for plants, like animals, to be shown respect. His own favourites are giant trees, particularly redwoods which have taken hundreds of years to grow and whose trunks would span twice the area of his office (which is rather large for King’s Buildings accommodation).

So what have plants done to deserve this respect? According to Professor Trewavas, we underestimate them because we assume that intelligence requires mobility. So, as plants generally stay put, they cannot have that elusive thing called intelligence, which characterises animal life. But he disputes that definition, pointing out that it all depends on context. The chess-playing computer which beat Garry Kasparov didn’t move (although the pieces did), showing that movement could not be a pre-requisite.

Tony Trewavas believes that plants did not have to become mobile because unlike animals, they rely on the sun for sustenance, so do not have to move to find food.

“That’s not to say they don’t take decisions on how and where to grow, based on an apparent assessment of how to make the best of the environment.

He quotes research on the dodder, a parasitic plant which appears to assess how much it will be able to exploit a new ‘host’ plant within an hour or two of first making contact.

If the host appears to have an abundance of nutrients, the dodder will wrap itself around it with a number of coils and suckers that are related to how much the parasite hopes to get out of it. If the larder appears more bare, the dodder—which sounds as though it could have a walk-on part in Dr Who—will move away and seek a better place elsewhere.

This is not reflex behaviour, says Professor Trewavas, pointing out that the plant actually fits into animal models showing how cows behave to get the best out of pasture. “It’s about optimal exploitation of resources. The dodder seems to have a similar capacity to make an assessment before deciding on the level of investment.”

So is there any research to show whether some are more intelligent than others? Taking the adage of brains and beauty rarely going hand in hand, can we assume that the rose is stupid while lowly bindweed is the brightest plant on the block? Sadly, there’s no evidence to sort out the sheep from the goats in the garden or even in the forest.

Nor, as yet, are there explanations to show how plants manage to think. They do not have a brain, after all.

Professor Trewavas believes that plant cells and tissues communicate with each other using proteins, nucleic acids, hormones and numerous other vehicles—quite a lot for each little cell to handle. He readily admits that we don’t know how it happens, and believes it’s a fertile area for research. But, he says, you won’t find plants exhibiting any kind of IQ under glass. “There’s no point in looking for intelligence in house plants or in the laboratory. You’ve got to go out and look at wild plants or try to set up conditions like in the wild.” In other words, there’s no intelligence in the lab—in plant life, at any rate.

Jennifer Trueland is a freelance journalist and graduated in English from the University in 1988.
Did you enjoy being a student?
Loved it. Loved the freedom, the sparking of ideas, meeting people with the same interests as me, dipping a toe in various waters (writing, putting together a magazine, drama, music...). Pity all those lectures, tutorials and essays got in the way.

Extra-curricular activities?
I joined the Poetry Society in Freshers’ Week, rose to the giddy heights of ‘President’. We were given funding and were able to pick and choose poets to come and talk to us, followed by drinks afterwards. It was great. I also joined the Film Society, ended up writing some programme notes. Became involved in a student-funded magazine called... no, the title escapes me. Sharp Edges maybe?

Best memory?
Nights in the pub with one particular tutor. Four pints of Eighty-Shilling, and suddenly Joyce’s *Ulysses* started to make sense! I met my future wife on one of those nights...

Worst memory?
Due to a shortage of housing, I wasn’t allowed to go into the halls of residence. I was expected to travel from home instead (an hour away by train). I spent my first term in a shared room in a grim motel on Peffermill Road, feeling excluded from the vibrant city centre existence other freshers were enjoying.

Which subject would you now study?
I’d still study Literature, but maybe with more emphasis on Scottish rather than English... and with some creative writing modules if possible.

Any member of staff have a lasting influence?
Colin Nicholson was a big influence, because he was down to earth but also had a passion for his subject. And I was always bothering the various writers in residence, one of whom, Allan Massie, was a huge help in shaping my writing.

Did your degree prepare you for life outside?
I didn’t last long in the world of work. After graduation, I bounced around a series of short-term jobs, until I realised I didn’t like the cold harsh reality of the commercial life. I applied for funding for a PhD, and ended up back inside the University. Once there, I started writing my novels. The first one to be published was accepted by Polygon Books, which at that time was funded by the University’s Student Publications Board. My editor was a fellow student; so was the jacket designer. The proof reader was a lecturer! I hope they kept their copies. The book now fetches a four-figure sum on the collectors’ market!

Advice for new students?
Don’t be shy. If something interests you, get involved. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity.

And to new graduates interested in becoming writers?
You need buckets of self-confidence, because you’re going to get rejections and knock-backs. So: believe in yourself. At the same time, learn to accept useful criticism. You’ll also need luck... lots of luck.

What single word sums up your University experience?
Rebus. (I was a student when I created him. Eighteen years later, he’s still with me.)
HERE'S A RIDDLE: how do you get an orchestra into a back-pack? The answer's easy - you send for Nigel Osborne. The Reid Professor of Music at the University of Edinburgh is adept at packing all the musical paraphernalia required to create anything, from a full-scale symphony to an opera, into a rucksack. Even if all that can be carried is a collection of triangles, wooden claves, maracas and Tibetan bells, he and his students are practised at making marvellous music under duress. For they regularly bring the solace of music to parts of the former Yugoslavia.

A prolific composer, Professor Osborne has written operas for the English National Opera, Opera Factory and Glyndebourne, as well as for the National Theatre of Sarajevo. A human rights activist, he is deeply serious but good-humoured. He is politically and intellectually committed and burns with righteous anger at man's inhumanity to man. Not for nothing is he nicknamed the 'Pied Piper of Mostar' - a reference to the creative arts therapy he founded a decade ago for traumatised children, many of them trapped in refugee camps after seeing their homes and schools razed, and their families destroyed in the carnage of the war.

He is therefore an exceedingly busy man. His friend, the poet Craig Raine, calls him 'the invisible man', because you can never get him on the phone. "He has an answer machine but it just rings and rings". The one time he answered I nearly had a cardiac arrest. Indeed, it takes two weeks of calls, endless voice mails and e-mails for us to arrange our meeting in his department at the University.

Bushily-bearded like a gentle giant, Professor Osborne hurries in and says breathlessly: "We can't stay here - I won't get a moment's peace". So we repair for coffee to the foyer of the nearby Festival Theatre, where at least three people want to have a conversation with him. We talk for a couple of hours during which he will once again have presumably convinced several more people that he is invisible.

Nigel Osborne may not always be in evidence, but his perceived 'absence' is obviously a way of creating enough space for himself to do everything he has to do. For in addition to teaching - with colleagues he also runs the University of Edinburgh's hugely successful Music in the Community programme - he carries on making new work. His most important opera, The Electrification of the Soviet Union, based on Boris Pasternak's novel, The Last Summer, has been touring Britain in a chamber version. Every summer, he tirelessly composes new pieces, including full-scale operas, while working with dispossessed children in the Balkans.

So he has 'parallel lives'. Yet another is at home in the Borders, where he lives with his Polish wife. It's just a question of finding out where his 'musical genome' is most at home, he says thoughtfully, while sipping coffee.

Born in Manchester, Nigel Osborne won a string of prizes, including the Gaudeamus Award, at the University of Oxford, where he studied composition with Egon Wellesz, Arnold Schoenberg's first pupil. In the early seventies, he spent some years as a post-graduate student in Poland. On his return he supported himself by teaching music in various secondary schools, but he also had a 'secret musical existence' composing new works, which by the mid-seventies had won golden opinions and a number of major European prizes.

As a young man he had worked in music therapy. So it seemed logical, when he became a music professor at Edinburgh, that he should launch a pilot scheme aimed at developing a Music in the Community course. The course was introduced into the undergraduate curriculum in 1991. "At the time there were considerable changes taking place in the musical world, which meant there were some exciting new professions for young musicians. I felt I had something to contribute", he says.

For example, the use of music in social care had become increasingly evident, as had its application in various forms of rehabilitation. Music was also seen as having an extended role in education - "creativity was at last becoming important in schools". The then Faculty of Music had always been proud of being very academic and rather conservative. "We wanted to remain so. We still wanted to teach eight-part Palestrina counterpoint and Bach double fugues, but we also wanted to do something radical and new, something much more cutting edge". It is also vital, he insists, for musicians not simply to sit on concert platforms performing but for them to become involved in society in which they live.
“There was so much pain, we just wanted to do something joyful. It was a massive job. I saw that we needed lots of help and, to the University’s credit, I was allowed to take my students to the Balkans on placement.”

In another sort of ‘glasshouse’ - Edinburgh's Saughton Prison - students have run music workshops with inmates, one of whom was even moved to compose a three-act opera. Students, community groups and members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra built a gamelan orchestra, using pitched and unpitched musical instruments salvaged from the Green Belt around the capital. The instruments used included an old VW Beetle - the resulting work was performed in the atrium of the Royal Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street.

The award-winning Music in the Community course has put students on a series of inspirational placements, ranging from schools and hospitals to centres for children with special needs. “I think we must have collaborated with more than 70 institutions in Scotland over the years,” recalls Professor Osborne. “We hope our students bring fresh faces and a lot of energy to the various professions, but in a respectful spirit. Certainly, we believe everyone gains.” Students have even worked with the blind, developing tactile notations, and with victims of head injury and trauma.

Never in his long academic career has he known a course to be more formed by its students than Music in the Community. “I offered the crumbs, but the students made the bread”, he says. “They asked for a Part 2. We had had a kind of mosaic of experiences in Part 1, so we decided they should specialise with a year’s placement in one environment and there have since been many marvellous inter-disciplinary projects. In Part 2, students write dissertations about the work and are required to ask profound questions about music. So the course has grown and grown with many worthwhile research projects. All the time we have been making music too. In fact, I have a theory that this is where the real new music is taking place”.

“As a composer, I often feel the official music field has betrayed itself in terms of musical creativity because of economic circumstances,” he says. “I think real creative power and inspiration has migrated into these fringes. Indeed, perhaps knowledge of the human condition has migrated to the margins. In mainstream society everybody seems to be dashing by on some kind of superficial agenda, slightly numbed by hyper-information and media lies. Most of us seem to live in some strange narcotic dream. I think real knowledge is on society’s frontiers.”

The dispossessed, the suffering, the poor are always with us, sighs Professor Osborne. His own work using music with children brutalised by conflict developed coincidentally. “There was so much pain, we just wanted to do something joyful. It was a massive job. I saw that we needed lots of help and, to the University’s credit, I was allowed to take my students to the Balkans on placement.”

Out of that ongoing work came the Emmy award-winning BBC documentary about Professor Osborne and his team. The film helped to raise the money for War Child to build Mostar’s Pavarotti Centre. “With music you don’t need words,” says Professor Osborne. “It’s a universal language. You can communicate with anyone in distress - if you choose the right notes.”

Jackie McGlone is a freelance journalist.
The Heart of The Matter

At the heart of University of Edinburgh are its students.

UNDERGRADUATE and postgraduate student populations show a healthy growth, both in numbers and in diversity of backgrounds. The latter is a product of an ongoing process to ensure our admissions process is as fair as possible, so that we are accessible to able students from all backgrounds. Opening our doors to excellence continues to be a priority and this year has seen much progress.

Applications from international students continue to rise. With some 4,000 international students from more than 120 countries, studying at Edinburgh is a truly cosmopolitan experience, for home and international students alike.

Student life has never been more vibrant. Alongside ever-popular activities such as societies, drama and an award-winning student newspaper, our students now enjoy some of the finest University sports facilities in Europe.

The halls of residence too are evolving with the opening this year at Pollock of Chancellor’s Court, a brand new hall of residence with en suite bathrooms and internet access in every room, encouraging vacation conference/course bookings, as well as enhancing student facilities.

Edinburgh’s alumni continue to show their appreciation of their time spent in the University. Some donate money to the Development Trust, some organise and attend alumni events, from Hong Kong to New York, and one graduate, NASA Astronaut Piers Sellers, in 2002 even took a University of Edinburgh flag into space.

Edinburgh on the World Stage

AS A TRULY international institution, currently with students and staff from almost every country, Edinburgh’s influence is felt the world over, via the life and work of its alumni and academics. This global tradition continues and 2001/2 was a year rich with international projects.

A formal agreement with Stanford University for Informatics was signed in February. It aims to push forward the frontiers of research into commercially-viable innovations that will enhance the way people interact with technology.

Edinburgh’s partners in industry continue to multiply. The Japanese pharmaceutical company Fujisawa is helping our neuroscientists get closer to new medicines for the treatment of strokes and Alzheimer’s Disease. Nearer home, companies such as IBM, are involved in many collaborative research projects with the University. In the School of Electronics and Engineering, links with industry are yielding an impressive scholarship programme with companies like Agilent and Thales.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

THE UNIVERSITY is a major force in the economy of Scotland and one of the largest employers in the Lothians. It currently generates a spin-out company a month, translating our intellectual strength into commercial strength. This brings advantages to the employment market and extends the products of such advances - whether in medicine or other fields - to the wider communities.

Investment in research and innovation also provides internal returns. Research commercialisation plays a part in attracting to Edinburgh the international scholars who see further such opportunities for their own work, thus benefiting both academic life generally and the student body.

Financial Developments

FOR THE FIRST time the University’s total income has exceeded £300 million, rising to £315 million from £285 million last year, due to continued growth in research successes and steady rises in student numbers. The University boasts a healthy cash balance thanks to the £40 million bond deal two years ago. The financial situation this year permitted £32 million of investment in the estate, of which £13 million came from external grants. Financial margins remain tight, however, and a commitment to maximum utilisation of resources continues to be essential.

AS FROM THIS YEAR, as part of the process under which communications with graduates have been reviewed, the University’s Annual Report will no longer be sent to all as a separate item, but is covered in summary on this page of Edit, on the understanding that any reader who would like to see the full Annual Report - containing financial summaries and more news from the newly-established three academic Colleges (Humanities & Social Science/Medicine & Veterinary Medicine/Science & Engineering) - may either access this online via www.cpa.ed.ac.uk, or request a printed copy by post, via The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE. Printed copies will also be tabled for all attending the meeting of the General Council in Old College on Sat 8 February 2003.
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH COLLECTIONS

11 January - 1 February
An opportunity to view works from The University of Edinburgh’s collections. The Hope Scott Collection, which is on show at regular intervals, includes work by international artists such as Picasso and Bonnard. The UoE Collection also contains works by many notable 20th-century Scottish artists such as Joan Eardley and the innovative abstract painter, William Johnstone.

KENNY HUNTER
REALPOLITIK!
14 February - 22 March
Work by one of Scotland’s foremost sculptors, Kenny Hunter. Hunter’s work combines a knowledge of classical sculpture with an ironic critique of society, producing sculptures that are toy-like and larger-than-life. REALPOLITIK! at the TRG will be a contextual study of the artist’s work, bringing together a number of existing sculptures and a reworking of particular pieces. Up to six life-sized resin-based works will be shown in the main exhibition space of the Gallery, including a cast of Citizen Firefighter, a work that has gained such prominence since September 11th. The upper floor of the Gallery will be a designed display exploring the artist’s public practice. It will include drawings, photographs, models and video film.

JAMES REILLY
14 February - 22 March
A selection of Reilly’s uneasy figure paintings, responding to news items from television and press, will be shown in the Round Room.

LUCY FOTHERGILL
5 April - 3 May
Recent Edinburgh College of Art graduate, Lucy Fothergill, will create an installation of woven wire vessels exploring molecular patterns for the Round Room space.

JO GANTER
5 April - 3 May
Glasgow-based artist Jo Ganter is known for her delicate lithographs and screen prints. The Talbot Rice exhibition gives the artist an opportunity to show a series of paintings and lightworks alongside a suite of new prints.

KEIKO MUKAIDE FESTIVAL
Edinburgh-based artist, Keiko Mukaide, will create an installation in glass, titanium and plastic, for the central space of the White Gallery. The exhibition will also include a new sound work, film and photography.

OLIVIA IRVINE
ALICE AND THE INFANTA
30 May - 19 July
New paintings by the Scottish artist, Olivia Irvine, will be shown in the Round Room.

OBJECT LESSONS
30 May - 19 July
Objects chosen by Curators from The University of Edinburgh. A chance to view the treasures of the University of Edinburgh’s Special Collections, including fine art artefacts, design objects and rare manuscripts, and a demonstration of their enduring place in the intellectual and imaginative life of the University.
Let me ask you something.

“Who do you say you are?” Think about the question. I am not asking: “who are you?” or even, “who do you think you are?” “Who do you say you are” implies that you can choose from an array of options, that you make a conscious decision to present yourself in a particular way. In certain contexts you will no doubt highlight some features over others; you will interact with some people differently from others.
"Scots are much more explicit about their national identity than the English, who find the distinction between being English and being British more problematic."

These are the kinds of questions which our programme of research is designed to tackle. We are focusing mainly on Scotland and England because the future of the United Kingdom in constitutional terms will depend mainly on how these two nations redefine their identity relationships. Our team of social scientists is made up of sociologists, social psychologists, social anthropologists and political scientists. It is co-ordinated through the University of Edinburgh, and involves colleagues at St Andrews, Dundee, and Lancaster. Together, we are carrying a series of large-scale surveys at key time points over the five year period. We are also doing a series of in-depth interviews with a sample of people in Scotland and England - both ‘nationals’ (Scots- and English-born residents) and ‘migrants’ (Scots-born living in England, and English-born living in Scotland). To see whether the same people’s views change, and if so, why, we are interviewing them three times over the five year period.

Important though it is to focus on individual people in these ways, we are also exploring how people ‘do’ identity in organisational settings, in this case a hospital and bank, where national identity matters may or may not be part of the everyday world people inhabit. Identity too is a question for agencies and institutions. We may get a lot of our sense of what it means to be Scottish, English, British, and so on, from the media, and from the way organisations - like universities, even economic development agencies - choose to present themselves in ‘national’ terms.

What, then, are we finding, after two years of research? The usual health warnings apply, that our definitive findings will not emerge until this programme is complete. After all, we are interested in real-time change, and this very important period in Britain’s constitutional history, and no-one can really tell what the long-term outcomes in identity terms will be. Certain things, however, are beginning to emerge.

In the first place, national identity, notably in Scotland, is as important as people think it is. It is certainly on a par with people’s sense of themselves as parents, and more important than their social class, religion, and gender, even among women. Being English in England, on the other hand, is more muted, and is certainly not as salient as it is in Scotland. In other words, there is clear asymmetry on both sides of the border. Scots are much more explicit about their national identity than the English, who find the distinction between being English and being British more problematic.

Not so in Scotland, where Scots find it easier to distinguish national (Scottish) identity and state (British) identity than people south of the border. In short, ‘identity-politics’ are done quite differently in England and in Scotland. When Scots migrate to England, they generally take their strong sense of being Scottish with them, while adopting a firmer sense of being British as an inclusive form of identity.

For English-born migrants to Scotland, there is something of a learning curve. Many say that they never thought of themselves as English until they came to live in Scotland, but adapt quite comfortably to living in what they see as a different country, with different traditions and practices. In short, they often go native and enjoy embracing the differences. They find that the new Scotland with its new parliament offers them an inclusive, territorial, sense of belonging, because it gives them the right to vote and to participate in shaping the country.

What seems to be happening is that a ‘civic’ sense of being Scottish is being strengthened vis-à-vis an ‘ethnic’ sense based on birth and ancestry. These still matter, of course, but there is a growing feeling of an inclusive sense of Scotland based on who lives here. England is a much bigger country, and we are finding that, just as people are more willing to define themselves as ‘English’, so there are important north-south differences such that, certainly in the north, regional identity plays an important role in self_DEFINitions. Being British still matters to people north and south of the border, and certainly in England it does the job of spanning a diversity of ethnic groups, and is used much more to reflect racial inclusiveness in a society where almost 9% belong to an ethnic minority compared with just over 1% in Scotland.

How do people in England view developments in Scotland? There is a much more sophisticated understanding of devolution south of the border than one might imagine. There is clear recognition that Scotland is a different country, and that its distinctiveness and distance from Westminster makes a devolved parliament sensible and practicable. It may irk many Scots that the English use ‘England’ and ‘Britain’ too interchangeably (but not as often as in the past), but they have learned to tolerate the essential asymmetry of identity-talk in the two nations.

In short, our mid-term report suggests that the peoples of these islands are more relaxed and sanguine about their identities than some in the press would give them credit for. They are well able to be many things at the same time, and to invest new meanings in old national constructs. Being Scottish, English, British - and increasingly, European - all take on new significance in our rapidly changing world, for they are not fixed labels but emblems of who people want to be in the 21st century.

David McCrone holds a Chair in Sociology in the Institute of Governance at the University and heads the four-university research programme into national identity and constitutional change.
EXAMS: THIRTY YEARS ON

Harry Reid offers some personal reflections.
HEN I WAS APPOINTED education correspondent of The Scotsman in 1973 I thought, ingenuously, that I would be writing a lot about educational theory and development. I had done a four-year apprenticeship, working as a general reporter, sports writer and feature writer. Now I was to have a chance to become, in time, something of an expert. I would be writing commentaries and think pieces as well as straight reports. I might even help to influence Scottish educational policy. The reality proved rather different. It was almost as if I had been appointed a political correspondent, an industrial correspondent or even a war correspondent.

In the mid-1970s, Scottish education was a battleground. The three most prominent figures were all very left-wing. The first had recently served as chairman of the Labour Party in Scotland; the second, who was much younger, was to have that honour in a few years time. The third was simply disgraced with the Labour Party for betraying its principles.

The first figure was John D Pollock, a brilliant Ayrshire headteacher who had just been appointed general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, the teaching union which dominated Scottish primary and secondary, if not tertiary, education. The EIS had been infiltrated by militants and although John detested these people his way of dealing with them was to embrace militancy himself. Teachers were then grotesquely underpaid and after considerable agitation the newly-elected Labour Government of 1974 set up the Houghton Committee to produce a report on their pay. But the Committee was dilatory in its deliberations and soon the subscription and Labour Party politics.

The one truly prophetic figure I encountered was RF. As I got to know him we had many discussions about what was wrong with education. I was honoured when he asked me to write the foreword to his book about his experiences at Summerhill, _The Unbowed Head_.

Mackenzie was a winsome man, yet he could be roused to intense, scornful anger, and nothing made him angrier than the examination system. He likened the Scottish Certificate of Examination Board to a bunch of religious zealots, tyrannising ordinary folk to keep them in their place. He thought the entire education system was rotten and he reckoned that at the heart of this rottenness were examinations. I admired him, but I did think that he was a bit wild.

He predicted to me that the entire British exam system would one day collapse in confusion. There would be more and more exams; teachers and pupils would find the exam system more and more demanding and debilitating; the system would lose all educational and practical credibility; and at last it would implode.

Do we really need exams? A month or so ago I was staying with an old friend in Oxford who must remain anonymous, but he is - how shall I put it - not unconnected with Oxford University.

He told me that most, if not all, the Oxford colleges, when they were assessing applicants, had so little faith in public exams that they more or less ignored them when it came to deciding to whom they would offer places.

Meanwhile I have also become aware that, unofficially, many universities routinely exercise positive discrimination; for example, they will regard a B or a C grade awarded to a pupil at an inner city comprehensive as worth more than an A grade awarded to one at a leading independent school.

When the Editor asked me to write this piece I trawled through the previous few days' newspapers, looking for any references to exams. There were many; every single one of them was negative. Here are just three of these stories, chosen at random:

- Dom. Tony Sutch, head of the exclusive Roman Catholic school Downside, resigns because he is "exhausted" trying to reconcile his duty to bring out the talents of every child in his school with the requirements of forcing them through an exam system that seems designed to kill off their creativity and curiosity.
- Dr Geoff Lewis of Aberdeen University's education faculty says that almost half his students training to be...
Successive generations of students who stayed in ‘digs’ often retain firm – and fond – memories of their landladies. TRICIA MALLEY and ROSS GILLESPIE turned the camera on a few of those who currently provide a ‘home from home’ for Edinburgh students and listened to their comments.

“Having young people around certainly keeps you on your toes!”

“I’m still in touch with quite a few of my students – including the very first. She was a science undergraduate then, and now she’s got three big girls of her own!”

“On the whole, I’d recommend it to anyone who likes having people around and doesn’t mind sharing a kitchen. In fact, some of my students have even cooked me very nice meals!”

“My student lodger is German…We’ve had a lot of laughs together, and I think it’s helped with her English, too.”

“The only bad experiences are people who don’t pay their rent or give you cheques that bounce.”

“Our current postgraduate student walks our dog every day. We even had Japanese students who performed a whole tea ceremony for us.”

“My own family have grown up, but I still like to have young people around the house.”
WHAT LINKS James Boswell to Julius Nyerere, Jennie Lee to Joseph Lister, or Mungo Park to the early 19th century Miranda who managed to secure an education and practise medicine by living as James Barry?

The answer is they are all alumni of the University of Edinburgh but that they are also among those individually featured in a series of bronze plaques, instituted for the new millennium as part of a policy to try and acknowledge more publicly some of the distinguished and famous names associated in the past with the UoE.

The initial twenty six chosen in 2000 have now been joined by a further eleven and it is the intention to go on adding a further four or so each year until the University has done more justice to at least a good selection of those who have featured in its history over the course of more than 400 years.

Selection is far from easy, for the names suggested always exceed the number that can be chosen in any one year, and it is the aim to try and get some balance, if possible, between the different centuries, disciplines and roles, to say nothing of gender - particularly difficult since women have only featured on the graduation roll for the last hundred and ten years.

These plaques are only being mounted on the exterior of University buildings and currently range across Old College and the George Square area, High School Yards, King's Buildings, Easter Bush, Holyrood and the New College precincts.

There are already two Nobel laureates, three famed novelists and two signatories of the American Declaration of Independence among the thirty seven.

Despite the competition, the University is always interested in suggestions for future plaque subjects, so if Edit readers have any suggestions for former staff, students, benefactors or office-bearers (the living are excluded from this series...) and why, in particular, they should be honoured, they are invited to write in to Deepthi de Silva Williams at CPA (see below).

If you are in Edinburgh and would like to see the plaques in situ, a leaflet listing their locations is available from Communications and Public Affairs at the University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE.

Test your knowledge of University history. The reason why some of the current thirty seven names appear is obvious; for others perhaps, it is less so at first sight. What was their link to the UoE and for what attributes/achievements have the following been honoured?... no prizes offered.

Two of the well-known names featured on the plaques are illustrated here, alongside the interior of the Edinburgh works of Charles Laing & Son, where the plaques are cast.

To R. S. Scott, Esq.

Dear Sir,

We, the students of the class of Logic and Metaphysics, are desirous, before separating for the season, to convey to you our united and hearty thanks for the Zeal, Ability, and Assiduity with which you have discharged the duties of the chair during the illness of Sir W. Hamilton.

It gives us much pleasure to express, in this manner, our cordial appreciation of your valuable services, leaving to us nothing to desire, which aught but the Professor's presence could supply, and to bear our testimony to the impartiality and Kindness which have characterised your intercourse with the class during Sir W.'s absence.

Edinburgh University
April 12th 1847

John M Snody, Chairman,

We much regret that so many of your number should have been obliged to leave town before the address could be signed. We have however received from them the assurance of their hearty sympathy with its object.

This letter has a curiously modern and familiar ring to it. The students of the Logic & Metaphysics class of 1847 were evidently grateful for a session of academic stability at a time of uncertainty and change within the University. In the wake of the Disruption in the Church of Scotland in 1843 and the subsequent formation of the Free Kirk, together with the foundation of its New College (now the School of Divinity) in 1846, the University was fighting for its independence from the Edinburgh Town Council. The charismatic and popular Sir William Hamilton, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics (and former Secretary to the Senatus) had been in the thick of the fight, which may have brought on the partial paralysis which caused him to suspend his academic activities in 1846. Hamilton remained active for another ten years, but died in 1856, just two years before the Universities (Scotland) Act of 1858 gave the universities their independence and modern structure.

A little is known of some of the names mentioned in this letter. Hamilton's assistant is probably Robert Selkirk Scott, who had first matriculated in Arts in 1840, and who then departed to study and graduate in Manchester before returning to study at Edinburgh 1844-46, then evidently taking over and teaching Hamilton's courses with success. The most famous of the signatories is Thomas Spencer Baynes (1823-1887), Hamilton's favourite student. He too became Hamilton's assistant from 1851 to 1855, and was eventually appointed to the Chair of Logic, Metaphysics and English Literature at the University of St Andrews. Another, Robert Demaus (1829-1874) graduated MA in 1850; he became the headmaster of Breadalbane School in Aberfeldy and wrote several books, including biographies of the reforming divines William Tyndale and Bishop Hugh Latimer. A third, Robert McDougall (1831-1909) went on to ordination in the Church of Scotland and emigrated to Canada as a missionary.

Can you identify any of own or your friends' forbears among the other students in the Logic & Metaphysics Class of 1847? The Editor would be glad to hear from you if you can.

The letter itself is now in the University Library's Special Collections (MS Gen 1733/10).

Peter Freshwater
**Letters**

Write to EDiT; win a prize

**EDIT WANTS TO HEAR** your views on the issues raised by contributors. The writer of the most distinctive letter to the next issue will win a prize for their efforts. All letters are welcome and should be addressed to The Editor, EDiT, Communications & Public Affairs, The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE. Email <Clare.Shaw@ed.ac.uk>

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**The Callan Challenge**

IT IS VERY SAD not being able to address this letter to Anne McKelvie, whom we met when we made our most nostalgic return to Edinburgh in April 1998 and, of course, corresponded with over the ‘Callan Challenge’ (EDIT volume 2 number 3). She will be greatly missed.

The results of the Callan Challenge (to identify the Uoe graduate couple who had been married the longest) were never published, but from the letters we received, the Holmes were the clear winners. They, and the runners-up, are listed below:

- 63 years
  Andrew and Margaret (née Macauley) Holmes. Both graduated in History in 1936. Married 1st November 1939

- 60 years

Ian and Katharyn (née Shaw) Callan. Both graduated BSc Botany in 1941 and 1942 respectively. Married 11th August 1942

I see in EDIT that Cowan House is to be demolished. This is not, of course, the original Cowan House, which was in George Square where I lived in my student days. Katharyn was in the women’s residence, Masson Hall, which was next door (very convenient!). Both were knocked down and replaced by the new Library.

**Ian Callan, Lampeter, Wales**

**Rashid al-Din**

UPON OPENING the last issue of EDIT, I found myself looking at a very old friend. One of the illustrations to the ‘JAMI’ AT-TAWARIKH’ compiled by Rashid al-Din in 14th century Persia.

Between 1963-1968 I was a Fine Art student under Professor Talbot Rice, and for my thesis, he suggested I try and sort out the different hands at work on the ‘Jami’, resulting in many happy hours studying the manuscript in the University Library. As part of my course, I had also read Islamic History under ‘Monty’ Watt. Thus it was natural for me to write about the ‘Jami’...

After leaving University and Edinburgh College of Art, I emigrated first to Denmark, later to Sweden (1971), working as an artist and also doing other jobs part time. About 10 years ago, here in Uppsala, I saw an exhibition by a now-living Iranian artist, who works in the ‘aine karí’ technique, i.e. he uses mirror-stained glass to make glass mosaics.

Although his motifs were ‘modern’, for me it was like looking through a window opening all the way back to the days of 14th century Persia. I later came to work with this artist, as he and I have studios in the same building, and learned more about his special technique and the way Iranian artists are trained...

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**Dougal Haston and Islamic Studies**

OPENING EDIT’S 10th anniversary issue left me utterly stunned!

Two articles, one on Islamic studies, by Prof. Suleiman, the other on Dougal Haston and climbing, by Connor have extremely close personal resonances for me.

Dougal Haston, faced me & my sister Jacqueline (on a visit from Les Diablerets) in the Mountain Bar in Leysin, where I was an assistant professor at the American University College of Switzerland. Of course, Haston really only had time for people who had climbed Everest; skiers like us, were not serious people in his realm. So it was quite chilling to discover a week later, that this truly awesome climber, had died in a mere ski-ing accident. Ski-ing Leysin virtually every day to my lecture hall, I didn’t believe it & still don’t; Haston could read mountains too well, for it to have been an accident...

Also at about this time, there was a dispute amongst my students, as to how (being quite young and perhaps a little dashing) I should be addressed. On one side was a Whitney (of Pratt & Whitney), who wanted to use my Christian name, Max. On the other, was His Highness Jabar Al Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait, who seriously wished that I be addressed as Sir or Professor Settelen. The argument raged, then suddenly I said a little jokingly,

“I have it, Your Highness, were you to knight me, then the class could address me as ’Sir Max’? Kneeling down before my most serious & ardent student, he knighted me “Sir Max” before an astonished international array of my students and I was addressed as Sir Max henceforth....

Some time much later (having worked extensively in business and development in the Gulf), when on a North American tour, I visited A.E. Ames, a Montreal merchant bank, to discuss an investment proposal & gave a guest lecture on Islamic Finance at Concordia University; which lead even later to an appointment on the academic staff as an assistant professor.

Canada now, is where I receive my copies of ‘EDIT’ and the tenth anniversary edition will remain a personal treasure!

Max Hugh Settelen, BSc 1970, Ontario, Canada

**Haston ...the spider**

AT CERTAIN TIMES of year, a small spider - not quite as small as a ‘money spider’ - appears, and is a great friend, as it does marvels of rock-climbing, often in the sink.

I have for many years known him as ‘Dougal Haston’. I have known Leysin ever since a friend was treated in Professor Rollier’s clinic in the 20s. I myself become giddy looking over the railings in the Museum in Chambers Street...

W W Hutton MA 1934, London

**Any Rectorial Reminiscences?**

I AM WRITING a book about the Rectors of Edinburgh University 1859-2002. This will follow my book Rectors of Glasgow University 1820-2000, which was published in 2001. The present Rector of Edinburgh, Robin Harper, approves of the project and is helping me.

The roll call of Edinburgh’s Rectors stretches from Gladstone and Winston Churchill to Magnus Magnusson and Muriel Gray...

Do people have any memories and stories about rectorial elections and installations, or old campaign leaflets, posters or photographs? If so, I would love to receive information of this kind. Much rectorial material has been lost. What survives is well worth saving.

For example, were any graduates involved in ‘scrapes’ when they were students and were in rectorial election campaigns? What are the inside stories that have never been told about rectorial elections? How were candidates picked? Perhaps just [continued on page 33]
reunion (ri:'ju:njan) n.
A gathering of relatives, friends or former associates.

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 ‘all right 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.

Please contact: Gerard Bony, Peebles Hotel Hydro, Peebles EH45 8LX.
Tel: 01721 720602. Fax: 01721 722999.
E-mail: reservations@peebleshotelhydro.co.uk
Website: www.peebleshotelhydro.co.uk
primary teachers have problems with writing English. “Most worrying is that all these students have passed Higher English. This has to raise questions about validity of the exam,” he is quoted as saying.

● The eminent historian Professor Simon Schama says he would prefer history teaching in schools to be abolished altogether rather than have pupils cramming in rigid modules imposed by the exam system.

I had a faint sense of déjà vu. This was the sort of thing I was hearing in the mid 1970s; it was only the intensity of the criticism that had changed. (The other thing that has undoubtedly changed is the apparent decrease in competence of exam boards).

I started this piece in subjective mode and I would like to conclude it in similar vein. Since I graduated in 1969 I have had little personal experience of exams, except when I served as an external examiner at two universities, one in England, one in Scotland, and vicariously through my daughter's experiences as an examinee. But I have to say that hardly anything I have heard about exams (with the significant exception of final university exams) throughout my adult life has been positive.

For example: Employers have told me time and time again, over three decades and more, that they distrust exams; academics have told me the same, if less virulently, as have politicians. It sometimes appears that the only people who have tried against the odds to maintain a belief in exams are parents, students and pupils; and, for the most part they are outside the system, even if they are its consumers.

I suspect that the time has come to abolish exams for everyone except final year university students. Their exams should be rigorous and yes, unashamedly elitist. At all other stages, different forms of assessment should be developed. This is exactly what R F Mackenzie proposed, in his conversations with me, all these years ago.

Belatedly I have come to the conclusion that this man, contemptuous of politicians and educational bureaucrats as he was, may have been the one we should have been listening to. He complained, constantly and eloquently, about children having their potential for creativity, for invention and for fulfilment being crushed by an insidious and capricious exam system.

Looking back on these years, I wonder also if the most able of our politicians had their potential for creativity and vision knocked out of them by the pettiness of quotidian political in-fighting and power-broking. Those who should have been rethinking our entire education system, and its excessive reliance in exams, were locked into short-term disputation and conflict. F

Harry Reid has worked in journalism for some thirty years, most recently as Editor of The Herald newspaper.

“hardly anything I have heard about exams, with the significant exception of final university exams, throughout my adult life has been positive.”
as interesting, what people were approached but declined to stand? And why did they decline?
I’ll be most grateful for help. I promise to take the utmost care of documents that are sent to me and to return them safely.
Donald Wintersgill
85 Alleyn Park, London SE21 8AA. Tel 020 8693 5962

Charles Barkla in Song
The letters about Professor Barkla in the 2002 edition remind me that I studied under him. But what I remember is not his academic work, but his singing. He was a guest at the annual party of the student ‘Physical Society’, but he sang for his supper. His party piece was a spirited rendering of Schumann’s ‘The Two Grenadiers’.
Ettrick Thomson MA 1937, Suffolk

Islamic studies and Richard Bell
It was with pride and pleasure that I saw the reference to Richard Bell, my great-uncle - a lovely and impressive man who wore his learning with humility - in the paper by Professor Yasir Suleiman in the last issue of EDiT.
Bell was a Dumfriesshire farmer’s son, a ‘lad o’ pairts’, who became Dux of Dumfries Academy. Then, after a distinguished career at Edinburgh University where he won the medal for Ecclesiastical History 1899-1900, he entered the Ministry at Wamphray Church and returned to the University as Reader in Arabic Studies and subsequently was honoured with a Doctorate in Divinity. As a youngster, it was my joy to browse his extensive library at home in Blacket Place.
Thank you for such an interesting magazine, which keeps me up-to-date on University affairs.
Moira Bell Young (nee Liddiatt) MA 1957, Northampton

Participating in the Grid …… and typefaces
I enjoyed the (last) edition very much - that is, the parts I could read! Some of the fonts you use are almost illegible to a 75-year-old, even with his reading glasses on!
Please note for the future.

However, my main purpose in writing to you relates to the article, “Making the Grid’, by Professor Richard Kenway. I struggled through this with reading specs and magnifying glass to find a reference to United Devices, an American computing grid - but to no avail……
My interest in UD arises from my modest domestic computer being part of UD’s grid and, unbeknown to me, my PC’s chips are working away in the dark watches of the night making their small contribution to cancer research. In the twelve months of my membership of UD my computer has been used for over 100 equivalent days and has yielded 179 results on the problems it has been set (don’t ask me what those were). On the UD website the data on my contribution is updated two or three times a day……
UD has 850,000 members worldwide, donating 1.65 million computers to the grid and in the two or three years it has been in operation, they have contributed 130,000 computer years that yielded 140 million results……
David Brown BSc 1951, Belfast

David Brown’s observations about type size, shared by some other readers, are well-taken. We shall try to do better in future. Richard Kenway was indeed aware of other Grid enterprises, but the focus of his article and considerations of space did not allow him to acknowledge all of these. David Brown has also contributed an extract from his autobiography, about his time at Edinburgh from 1947-51 as an ex-services student, which has been lodged in the University’s Special Collections. Ed.
Events & Reunions, Clubs & Groups

Reunite with your old friends

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, and getting your class together can often prove a difficult task.

Help is at hand, however, through Development & Alumni. If you need advice on how to get your fellow alumni together for an unforgettable reunion, you can obtain a copy of our Guidelines on Organising a Reunion. Simply contact Development & Alumni using the contact details at the bottom of this page.

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Winners of January 2002 Questionnaire Prize Draw

Thank you to everyone who returned their annual alumni questionnaire for 2002. The winner of the prize draw for a weekend break at The Bonham Hotel, Edinburgh, was Ms Pamela Cooke (MA 1971). "I had two nights at The Bonham. It was a lovely break and the view from my bedroom overlooking the Dean Valley, the south city, the Firth of Forth and Fife was breathtaking! Thank you very much."

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2003 Reunion Programme

1953 BSc Biological Sciences
May 2003, Edinburgh
Contact: Dr Eric Horton MD FRCP, 6 Kepplestone, Staveley Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9JY
Email: DDULOS@ergon28.freeserve.co.uk

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: anikledeeptb@telus.net

1961 MB ChB
7-10 September 2003, Carmel, CA, USA
Contact: Dr A G S Philip, 25710 Deerfield Dr, Los Altos, CA, 94022-3506, USA
Email: agsp2@netscape.net

1963 MB ChB
5-7 September 2003, Peebles Hydro
Contact: Professor John Hunter, Leewood, Rosslyn Castle, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9PZ
Email: john_hunter@livemail.com

1970 MB ChB
3-5 October 2003, Dunkeld House
Contact: Professor Gerry Fowkes, Wolfson Unit for Prevention of Peripheral Vascular Diseases, Public Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5QB
Tel: 0131 650 3220
Email: gcryan@ed.ac.uk

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

1978 BSc Mathematics & Related Subjects
2003, Date & Venue TBC
Contact: Mr A Charles Herbert, Eckler & Partners Ltd, Iac Building, Lower Collymore Rock, St Michael Barbados

1978 MB ChB
5-7 September 2003, Dunkeld House Hotel
Contact: Dr Gillian Irvine, Feo Ran, Craig Na Gower Avenue, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1WR

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

1987 BSc Civil Engineering
September / October 2003
Contact: John Douglas, 38a Inverleith Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5QB
Email: John.Douglas@let-it-be-thus.com

1993 BSc & MA Geography
September 2003, TBC - Edinburgh
Contact: Peter Bovill, Flat B, 11 Rumsey Road, London, SW9 0TR
Tel: 020 7773 1075 (H), Email: peterbovill@driversjonas.com

1993 MBA
Date: TBC, Venue: TBC
Contact: Mr Alan MacRae, Craiglenoan, Friarsbrae, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 6BQ
Email: alan.macrue@tsbsaf.co.uk or Ms Carol Creech, Email: clrcreech@optonline.net

Edinburgh University Dramatic Society (‘Dramsoc’ or ‘EUDS’)
40th Anniversary Reunion
17 May 2003, London
Contact: Philip de Grouchy, 260 Winchester Road, Shirley, Southampton, SO16 7LJ or Brian Pow at brian.pow@lineone.net with the subject line ‘euds 2003’

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Forthcoming Events

Edinburgh-Glasgow Universities Boat Races
Walter Scott & Partners Edinburgh Glasgow Boat Races
Saturday 17 May 2003, Glasgow
First race 2 pm

We want to hear from experienced alumni rowers who would like to take part in this year’s Universities’ Boat Races. A new course, further down the River Clyde, will test your skills and will provide a better event for competitors and spectators alike. Last year’s post-event dinner and ceilidh was a great success. Alumni and guests are, again, invited to join the crews at this year’s dinner/ceilidh in The Thistle Glasgow Hotel, starting at 7 pm. Tickets, costing £45 per person, include a pre-dinner wine reception.

Contact us by email, phone or letter if you would like to take part in one of the graduate races (men, women, mixed), or would like to have information about the dinner and ceilidh.

EUBC & Alexandra Club Ball

Manchester Edinburgh University Club
Burns Supper, Friday 24 January 2003, 8.00pm
Freemasons Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester
Cost: £24.00 per person. Please note that vegetarian haggis is available if you let Michael Gourley know in advance. Please contact: Mr Michael Gourley (Secretary), 107 Mellor Road, ASHTON UNDER LYN, Lancashire, OL6 6RW Tel: 0161 330 5000 Email: mahrgourley@ntlworld.com by 20th January 2003.

Edinburgh University Club of London
Burns Supper and Dancing, Friday 31 January 2003, St Columba’s Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1 6.30pm for 7pm. Highland dress, black tie or dark lounge suit. Cost £35 per person, plus a cash bar for drinks and table wine. Members of the Aberdeen and Glasgow University Clubs in London are also invited. To book, please contact: Peter Stephenson, PERSONAL, CE’s Grouping, Sutton Council, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1EA. Tel: 020 8770 5863 Email: pms_sutton@hotmail.com

Edinburgh University Football Club
125th Anniversary Dinner, 20 September 2003
During the season 2003 - 2004, EUAFC will celebrate its 125th birthday. All past players are invited to contact the Club to indicate their interest in attending not only the 125 Dinner in September, but also other 125 events during next season. The Club, with the assistance of the Alumni Office, is currently contacting former players to establish interest in these celebrations. Those who have not been contacted can obtain more details of both the 125 Dinner and other events by contacting: EUAFC, c/o Sports Union Office, Pleasance, Edinburgh EH9 9UE, or by e-mail: euafc@ed.ac.uk

General Council
Meeting & Lunch Saturday 8 February 2003
All members of the General Council, their families and friends are welcome to attend the Reception and lunch to be held in the Playfair Library, Old College, which will follow the half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh. Judge David Edward of the European Court of Justice will give the after-lunch address. For further information see page 49.

Alumni De L’Université D’Edimbourg en France

For details of other services we offer to alumni, including the Passport to The University of Edinburgh, and details of our alumni clubs and groups across the world, please see our website at www.dev.ed.ac.uk
You can call us on 0131 650 2240 or write to us at the Freepost address at the bottom of page 37.
French Final Honours Class of 1962
The French Final Honours Class of 1962 reconvened after 40 years on Friday 5 July 2002 at the French Institute in Edinburgh. Thirteen alumni and five partners - coming from Australia, Portugal and Germany as well as the UK - enjoyed wine and lunch in Odile’s restaurant within the Institute. A University quaich was presented to organiser Jimmy Inglis, and thanks were given to Grant Lindsay.

Georgia Alumni Group in USA
The Georgia Edinburgh Alumni Group continued its promotion of the University at the 30th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games which took place on October 19–20, 2002 near Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The Games, which showcase traditional Scottish music, dancing and athletics, draw tens of thousands of people each year. Visitors showed a keen interest in the numerous options for study at the University and in the city of Edinburgh. This was the second year that Georgia Alumni Group showcased opportunities to study at the University.

Edinburgh University Alumni in Singapore
On 23 August 2002, Mr David Chong Xy-Fang, President of the University of Edinburgh University Alumni Group in Singapore, attended a Welcome Dinner organised by the British Graduates Center where he met up with some committee members of other British university alumni bodies. There was a good mix of attendees from various professions and some guest speakers who spoke about entrepreneurship and industry. During his opening address, Mr.

Setyadi Ongkowidjaja, the Principal of the British Graduates Center, thanked the International Office of The University of Edinburgh for their financial support.

Edinburgh Alumni Association of Australia (Victoria)
On 12 July 2002 the Association held its annual Robert Burns Supper. The sterling performances of the previous year which included a memorable rendition of Burns’s Twa Dogs offered a hard act to follow, but there was no doubt on the part of those present that this year’s Supper was one of the best and most enjoyable of our tributes to the Bard. A last minute success in obtaining the services of one of Victoria’s best known Highland pipers and the high standard of speeches and performances from Michael McLaughlin, Gus Cummings, Sarah Culiclan and Sandy Robb made it a memorable night for all.

Alumni De L’Université D’Edimbourg en France
Outing to Fécamp, May 2002
Ruth Thompson gave members a very warm welcome to the port of Fécamp on 25 and 26 May. A guided tour of Fécamp allowed her to show them many interesting places which the ordinary tourist would normally pass by, such as the beautiful memorial to dead seamen dating from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. The visit included a trip along the coast to the village of St Pierre-en-Port and dinner at a waterfront restaurant overlooking the port. Members wish to thank Ruth sincerely for a pleasurable weekend.

The University of Edinburgh/The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Alumnus of the Year Award for 2002 has been presented to Professor Anneila Sargent, Professor of Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, by Sir George Mathewson at a ceremony in McEwan Hall on 4 December 2002.

The award is made annually to a former student of The University of Edinburgh for services to the community, for achievements in the arts or sciences, or for their contribution to public or academic life. Professor Sargent could be said to have taken the award a step further, as her achievements have gone beyond the confines of our planet.

Born and brought up in Fife, Anneila completed a BSc Honours degree in Physics at The University of Edinburgh in 1963. She is remembered by a fellow classmate as a ‘warm, bouncy and highly motivated student’ who was quite unfazed by being in such a male environment.

Professor Sargent claims that she is not particularly ambitious, and that her dramatic rise to the top of her profession was never planned. After taking time out to concentrate on raising her two daughters, her career only really took off once the girls were in their teens. But in that brief time, Professor Sargent has built up an exceptionally strong personal scientific reputation, with interests in the fields of star formation, and the possibility of other life forms existing beyond the solar system.

In 1998 she was presented with both the NASA Public Service Medal and the Caltech Woman of the Year award, and returned to Edinburgh in 2001 as a guest speaker at the International Science Festival.

We want to know which former student of the University you think should receive the Alumnus of the Year Award next year. Please contact us for a nomination form using the questionnaire enclosed with this issue, or by visiting www.dev.ed.ac.uk/alumnus_year.htm - nominations must be received by 30th April 2003.

All Caledonia on Sixth Avenue
The great and the good from the USA and Scotland turned out in New York City on 6 April 2002 to celebrate the 5th annual Tartan Day, in recognition of the major cultural, political and economic influences that Scotland had on the creation of the United States.

Up to 10,000 pipers, sponsored by ScottishPower, marched up 6th Avenue watched by large crowds including around 150 friends and alumni of the University of Edinburgh who were invited to a reception at a hotel overlooking the parade route.

Tartan Day was established in 1998 by Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi - himself of Scottish ancestry - who wanted to commemorate the Declaration of Arbroath on 6 April 1320, said to be the basis upon which the American Declaration of Independence was modelled some 450 years later. Much more than a commemoration, however, Tartan Day has grown into a wider celebration of the modern links and relationship between Scotland and the US, and each year sees the events schedule growing significantly.
Take me to the river
A group of active alumni and their spouses took advantage of Swan Hellenic’s ‘Delights of the Danube’ cruise on 4-17 June last year. The itinerary started with a pre-cruise tour of the historic city of Prague, and from there the group flew to Budapest to board Swiss Crystal and begin the river trip.

From then on, stops were made at Esztergom, Bratislava, Vienna, Melk, Grein, Linz, Passau and Regensburg before transferring to Munich and the return flight to London. Making up the alumni group for 2002 were, from left to right, Prof Alastair McDonald LLB 1949, Doreen McDonald née Cook MA 1948, Sheila Jackson née Picken MBChB 1967, Christine Lessels MA 1960 & LLB 1969, Betty Boyd MA 1948, Dr Freda Wilson MBChB 1954, Sheila Tennant MA 1949 and Moira McMillan BVMS.

University of Edinburgh wins top cruise company award
The University of Edinburgh’s Development & Alumni Office was presented with Swan Hellenic Discovery Cruises’ ‘Top Performing Alumni Association 2002’ Award in London recently. Maureen Clowe, Alumni Manager, collected the Award on behalf of Development & Alumni at a lunch on board the cruise liner mv Minerva, moored at Tower Bridge, London.

Since 1997 the cruise programme has been promoted to alumni in the UK with astonishing results. Commission, totalling nearly £40,000, has been donated to the Alumni Fund and some 135 alumni, family and friends have enjoyed the delights of cruising areas such as the Greek Islands, the Baltic, the Far East, and the Atlantic coast of Portugal.

Four cruises are planned for 2003, between May and December. Further information from www.dev.ed.ac.uk/alumni_travel.htm
THE ALUMNI FUND
Encouraging Excellence at The University of Edinburgh

This year, the Alumni Fund celebrates 20 years of supporting The University of Edinburgh. Over this time thousands of graduates and friends have made gifts that have helped individual students and academics and provided support for some of the exciting developments in the University.

For example the Alumni Fund has given:

● £500,000 to fund Scholarships
● £1,000,000 to support small project grants to individual students and staff
● £200,000 towards the Hospital for Small Animals
● £100,000 towards the e-Science Centre
● £50,000 improving teaching facilities at Divinity in New College.

By joining together, our alumni are making a major contribution to the life of the University. Many people are making regular gifts through standing orders. This steady stream of gifts makes the Alumni Fund very effective in helping the University.

We would be delighted if you would consider making a gift and become a Friend of the University. All gifts, whether a one off gift or a standing order will be very much appreciated and put to good use. As part of our commitment to you, we will keep in touch and let you know how the funds are spent - through our donor newsletter Friends’ Folio, published each year.

Thanks to changes in the law, we can reclaim basic rate tax on ALL donations, without the need for a Deed of Covenant. This is of enormous benefit and adds £28 to every £100 you give us.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING YOUR UNIVERSITY TODAY.

GIFT AID DECLARATION
Please reclaim tax on my donation(s) referred to in this form. (I am a UK taxpayer and have paid income tax or capital gains tax on this donation.)

Signature ____________________________ Date ________________

SINGLE GIFT FORM

Hear is my gift of £________

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to The University of Edinburgh Development Trust

☐ I wish to give by VISA/Eurocard/Mastercard/Switch

Card Number ________________

Expiry Date ________________

Switch payments Only

Issue Number ___________ Start Date ___________

☐ Please tick here if you would like your donation to be anonymous

☐ Please tell me how I might help the University by leaving a legacy

☐ Please send me details about gifting shares

☐ Please send me a regular gift form

Please return to:
Development & Alumni, The University of Edinburgh, FREEPOST EH565, Edinburgh EH8 0BR
Reception packs in the alumni

Almost 200 of the University’s most enthusiastic local alumni and donors were welcomed to the new Medical School building at Little France on 2 July last year for the Annual Reception for Friends of the University of Edinburgh.

Guests were invited for a preview of the hi-tech surroundings of the academic block – named The Chancellor’s Building – which was officially opened in August by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The evening provided an opportunity for the University to thank its supporters while showcasing recent projects that they have helped to fund. Included in the hands-on demonstration was the Curling Sweep Ergonometer, which the Scottish curling squad have been using extensively in their training. Guests also attended the presentations in the impressive main lecture theatre which included a detailed presentation on the proposed Edinburgh Research Institute for Medical Cell Biology – the next phase of the complex at Little France.

Many students have benefited directly from the invaluable support of donors, such as those on the LEAPS initiative which aims to widen access to higher education. A further presentation by students who participated in the APEX Bolivia expedition, partly sponsored by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust, impressed many of the guests, who took the opportunity for further discussion at the buffet supper that followed.

For many, the event was a rare chance to meet up with fellow alumni from years gone by. The Development Office has received many letters from guests who thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Colourful launch for medical fundraising campaign

The campaign to raise funds for the Research Institute for Medical Cell Biology entered its final leg in December as medical alumni, friends and academics gathered in The Chancellor’s Building in the new hospital, teaching and research complex at Little France for a memorable event.

Marking also the inauguration of a magnificent tapestry designed by Scottish artist Alan Davie (EDIT Spring 2002 p7), the Head of College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine Professor John Savill urged everyone to lend their support to the Research Institute and help make it a reality.

Two key donations from major charitable trusts were received in the latter half of 2002: £500,000 from the Rayne Foundation, and a matching £500,000 from The Norman Salvesen Emphysema Research Trust. The campaign is now well over three-quarters of the way to its £52m target, and individual donations from alumni and friends of the University are now being sought to help close the remaining gap. Over the coming months, medical alumni will be asked to give what they can to help bring the pioneering, world-class research into the world’s most prominent diseases already taking place at Edinburgh, together under one roof.

Construction of the Research Institute is due to commence shortly. You can make a gift to the medical fundraising campaign by filling in the form on page 37. Please state clearly that you would like your gift to go to the Research Institute.
The will to help others succeed

If there is one thing that motivated Derek and Maureen Moss to leave a legacy to The University of Edinburgh, it was the principle of education above all else.

So, when faced with a proposal that would allow them to provide a much-needed scholarship endowment for students of Geography, they had no hesitation in setting it up.

To leave something of lasting value to others when you die can mean making very difficult decisions. When it involves your relatives or offspring the choices are more obvious but, for childless couples like Derek and Maureen, it is extremely important to know that something useful will be done with their money when it is finally bequeathed to their chosen beneficiaries.

Having “agonised for years”, as Derek puts it, over what to do with their estate, he and his wife found themselves discussing the subject with friends over dinner. It was suggested they consider higher education and this triggered the idea for a scholarships’ legacy to the University of Edinburgh.

A generous proposal in itself - but made all the more remarkable by the fact that neither Derek nor Maureen have any prior connection with the University. So what was the attraction to them?

“I’d say that the most important thing in life is education”, says Maureen. “This is what opens the mind to the whole spectrum of life and the more we can get of it the better.”

The lives led by both Derek and Maureen go a significant way to explaining why education takes such a priority for them. Derek won a scholarship to Sutton County Grammar School for Boys in the 1940s, which was hugely fortunate given that his parents would have found the fees difficult to afford.

Whilst there, he qualified for a grant to study Organic Chemistry at the University of London where he graduated with honours. Afterwards, a change in direction and he joined the staff of an insurance company, studied part-time for seven years and qualified as an Actuary. Then, a final change in direction and, from 1963 until his retirement in 1989, Derek worked for IBM being based in Brussels.

For her part, Maureen lived a very mobile childhood due to her father’s role in the British Army. During the 1920s and 1930s, this meant attending around 18 schools and any further or higher education was not an option due to shortage of funds and a traditional expectation that girls would not take their schooling further. But the life-changing aspect of education still affected her - perhaps most significantly through a teacher who introduced her to the ‘beauties’ of the English Language whilst she was at school in the Himalayas.

After a spell with the WRNS, during the 2nd world war, Maureen had a very active secretarial career which included working for the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Maurice Parsons.

Since they met and married in the early 1970s, Maureen and, since his retirement, Derek have had a significant involvement with various charities and seen how some of them can literally change people’s lives. For example, stories flow easily from Maureen about her help to families in Brussels and Paris and her participation in a United Nations project for India to help teach women recently elected to its Parliament how to read and write.

So why is higher education the purpose of their legacy? The answer lies in their view of investing in future talent. “We regard our legacy as an investment”, explains Derek.

“Any investment - as I was told while studying to be an actuary - is an immediate sacrifice in the expectation of a future reward.”

Thus, future postgraduate geography students at the University of Edinburgh, without sufficient means of funding, will be given the chance to excel under the Moss’ generous legacy for scholarships in this subject.

Last word to Derek: “A friend, Dr Ted Kendall of Nevada City, California, asked me a question while Maureen and I were staying with him. He said ‘What’s the difference between training and education?’ I had not previously thought about this and Ted said ‘If you’re trained, you can do a limited number of things on a repetitive basis. But, if you’re educated, you have the capability to do many things on an innovative basis.’ I think this is so true.”

Legacies to the University of Edinburgh cover a variety of uses and recommendations, from helping support vital research facilities or lectureships in a particular specialist field, to providing scholarship or bursary endowments to widen access for students who would otherwise not benefit from higher education.

Have you considered leaving a legacy to the University? It is a special way to put something of significant and enduring value back to your alma mater, in whatever form you wish to bequeath it. You can obtain further information from Martin Hayman at Development & Alumni, Charles Stewart House, University of Edinburgh, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel: 0131 650 2240. Fax 0131 650 2229. Email: martin.hayman@ed.ac.uk
1930s


Dr Donald Black MB ChB 1936. Accepted Fellow of the Royal College on 14 April 2002.

Mrs Katherine J Stewart née Dark MA 1937. Has had 10 books published, most by Mercat Press, Edinburgh.


1940s

Miss Frances Mackenzie MA 1940 MA 1941. In 2001, in 84th year, visited relatives in the US. Has three nephews and one niece and they have two children each.

Mrs Mary E Rannie née Leask MA 1940 Dip Ed 1945. Undertaking voluntary work.


Dr Hugh Evans OBE 1942 BD 1945. Has managed to fish for trout in Yorkshire.

Dr Margaret Spencer née Meek MA 1945 MA 1946. PhD 1962. Honorary degree from Edinburgh University. Published in 2002.

Rev Dr William S Reid MA 1946 PhD 1947. Relinquished academic post at the University of Natal, South Africa. Living in France, working freelance in media and communication.


Mrs D Margaret Plint née Allan MA 1949. PhD 1954. Retired on 31 December 2002 as Trustee of Nellie UK Pension Fund and Chairman of its Investment Committee.


Mr John Adamson MB ChB 1966. Continuing BSc studies at Open University, in Earth Sciences, mainly Geology.

Mr Ian M Malcolm MA 1960. Since retiring, has written searing memoirs in the Merchant Navy covering the period 1943 to 1951.

Dr Andrew Balfour MB ChB 1969. OBE 1969. Now a Governor of the University of St Andrews.


Dr Jean Archibald MB ChB 1966. Took early retirement from pharmacy in order to concentrate on breeding polo ponies for son and horses for eldest daughter.


playground surfacing company in 2000 but continues on as President and CEO. Has resumed studying the piano and plays for charity trios.

Dr Eve Clark nee Cumme MA 1966 PhD 1969 New book coming out, 'First Language Acquisition'.

Mrs Kathleen Glassman née Binnie MA 1965 Retired and lives for 9 months of the year on sailboat in the Caribbean with husband Bob.

Rev David A Keddie BD 1965. Recently returned to Parish Ministry, St. Kenneth's Church, Glasgow.

Dr Donald MacLeod MB ChB 1965. Associate Postgraduate Dean (North) for South-East Scotland. Also Vice-President, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.


Mr Alexander R Murray MA (SS) 1965. Recently returned to Edinburgh on retirement from the Foreign Office. Hoping to find interesting part-time work to leave time for golf and travel.

Mr Malcolm W Clark MA 1966. Retired from 30 years in the NHS to become a self-employed management consultant.

Mr Maxwell M Cowan MA (SS) 1966 Early retirement from Glasgow City Council in 2001. Working part-time as a consulting local to authorities and other organisations.

Mr Paul F Haslam BSc 1966 MA 1966. Retired from educational administration in Northern Ireland. Still active in education as both researcher and activist.

Mr Norman J Keith MA 1966 BA 1968. Working to highlight the Tibetan refugees in his area and friends from cherished Edinburgh days.


Mr David A Keddie BD 1965. Recently returned to Parish Ministry, St. Kenneth's Church, Glasgow.

Dr Patricia Williams MBE 2001. Appointed to the Computer and Library Association, with effect from 2003. Member of British and Canadian Equity, and has appeared in several films and TV productions.

Dr Michael Mordic PhD 1972. Presented with the 2002 Gabellie Leger Award for lifetime contribution to heritage conservation by the Executive of Cambridge University Press.

Dr Rohan Wickramasinha PhD 1972. Recently selected by the French authorities for the award of Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes académiques.

Dr Colin Anderson BSc 1973 MA 1973. Appointed Visiting Professor in the Department of Marine Technology, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.


Professor Frederick Powell BSc (SS) 1973. Author: 'The Politics of Social Work'.

Mr Clare Ibbott BA 1975 MA 1975. Currently working as a volunteer at The Mills Observatory, Dundee, the UK's only full-time observatory.


Dr Richard Stewart PhD 1974. Interim pastor of the Eric Liddell Foundation UK.

Mr Kenneth G Morrison LLB 1974. Currently a school governor.

Mr Graham D Wilson BSc (SS) 1975. Worked for the Scottish International Development Authority.

Dr Patricia Williams MBE 2001. Appointed to the Computer and Library Association, with effect from 2003. Member of British and Canadian Equity, and has appeared in several films and TV productions.

Dr Michael Mordic PhD 1972. Presented with the 2002 Gabellie Leger Award for lifetime contribution to heritage conservation by the Executive of Cambridge University Press.

Mr Andrew Corbett BSc 1976. Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University. One daughter, Isabel Annwyn. Also Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University. One daughter, Isabel Annwyn.

Miss Rosemary Weir PhD 1976. Retiring to the UK and then to the UK subsequently.

Mr Ian R Manning MA 1976. Working in Guineas in Northern Portugal.

Mr David L McWilliam BA 1976. Director of Rail Restructuring in the Department of Transport.

Mr Peter Robertson MA 1976. Appointed Member of Parliament's Business Committee.


Mr John G Millican BSc 1976. Appointed Honorary President, Edinburgh University Rugby Club.

Mr Philip M Watt MA 1976. Professor of Chemistry at the University of British Columbia. Also President of Ronsdale Press in Columbia. Also President of Ronsdale Press in College.

Mr David Baird BSc 1978. Managing Director of Industry and Marine Business centre, Babtie Group. Honorary Professor of Structural Engineering at Heriot Watt University.

Mr Andrew Eaglesfield BSc 1977. Working for a major worldwide contractor in charge of their building operations in Scotland.

Mr Ian R Manning MA 1976. Retiring to the UK and then to the UK subsequently.


Mr Andrew Eaglesfield BSc 1977. Appointed to the Board of the Supply Chain Council based in the USA.

Mr Stephen R Bourne MA 1977. Appointed Chief Executive of the Scottish Chamber of Commerce.

Mr John G Millican BSc 1977. Appointed Visiting Professor in the Department of Marine Technology, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Mr Michael R Swanton MA (SS) 1977. Senior consultant with Mr. B., the international multi-disciplinary consulting group.

Mr Andrew Corbett MA 1977. Head of Physics, Bromley High School. Married to Christopher - met in Edinburgh - and have two children.

Mr Philip M Watt MA 1977. Professor of Chemistry at the University of British Columbia. Also President of Ronsdale Press in Columbia. Also President of Ronsdale Press in College.

Mr Ian R Manning MA 1977. Retiring to the UK and then to the UK subsequently.

Mr Philip M Watt MA 1977. Professor of Chemistry at the University of British Columbia. Also President of Ronsdale Press in Columbia. Also President of Ronsdale Press in College.

Mr Andrew Eaglesfield BSc 1977. Working for SNIRT in their pharmaceutical company making blood products. Married with 2 teenage children.

Mr Ian R Manning MA 1977. Retiring to the UK and then to the UK subsequently.

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Mr Andrew Eaglesfield BSc 1977. Working for SNIRT in their pharmaceutical company making blood products. Married with 2 teenage children.

Mr Ian R Manning MA 1977. Retiring to the UK and then to the UK subsequently.
Ms Helen Krasner BSc 1972  Gained professional helicopter pilot's licence in November 2001. In same year, won prestigious "dawn to dusk" international flying competition.

Gideon Katz NGU 1996 Currently an MBA student at the University Stern School of Business. Professor Ursula M King DD 1996 Received a third honorary doctorate in divinity from the University of Dayton, Ohio October 2002.

Robert C MacSwain R 1197 Ordained to the priesthood, February 2002.

Nicola C McEwan MA 1996 Married Nicola York in December 2000 and have a baby boy, Alfie.

Dr Graham Mcintosh MBA 1996 Married to Elizabeth Grant. Began new career as Vice President, Technology in Reno, Nevada, USA. Enjoying skiing and hiking in the sierras.

Dr Emmanuel Mellissaris MSc 1996 PhD 2001 Successfully completed PhD in Legal Philosophy at the University in 2002.


Mr Justin A Parker BEng 1996 Living in Aberdeen and working for a drilling contractor as an offshore drilling engineer.

Mr Alexei J Rosin BSc 1996 Working for Moet Hennessy looking after the London wholesalers and a team of five.

Mr Christopher Stocks BSc 1996 Worked with ‘Health Prospects Abroad’ in Tanzania in 2001. Currently researching ‘The recycling of galvanizing acid waste’.

Mr Guy Strachan MBA 1996 Co-founded Reith Lambert Commercial Property Advisers. The company has since expanded and moved to new offices.

Ms Jane Strudwick née Godson MA 1996 Married to Piers Strudwick (BSc (SS) 1993) with 2 young children. Returning to Edinburgh for a year, so would love to catch up with anyone who may be about!

Ms Katherine M Turner MA 1996 Undertaking expedition with fellow graduate Alexander Tolstoy (MA 1996) to raise money in support of Actikool - riding 3,000 miles on horseback from Mongolia to Siberia.

Ms Caroline A Wallace BSc 1996 In final year of PhD studying genetics of diabetes. Got married in 2000 and has been living in London for 5 years.

Ms Theresa K Wilson MSc 1996 Linguist/translator working as a member of SIL in Manus Province, Papua New Guinea. SIL members work to preserve ethnic languages, translate various literature, produce vernacular literature and teach reading and writing.


Mr Sandy Brechin MA 1993 Busy touring with six-piece Celtic rock group, ‘Buach’. Recently recorded on Donny Munro’s new solo album which is to be released March 2003.
Mr Nigel Anderson

Dr Mohammed Al-Kahali
MA 1999 PhD 1998 Currently working as a technical support officer to operations. Enjoying sports and leisure activities such as tennis, hiking, and diving. Married Sarah in 2002.

Mr Jonathan Morgan
MA 2000 MBA 2000 Currently working as a research capacity in electrical power engineering.

Other alumni

Miss Julie-Anne Macqueen OBE 2000 On retirement in 1998, a charitable trust was set up in family name, the Macqueen Trust. The aim is to raise funds for the alleviation of single parents and their children. Dr Richard McKechnie Built a house on the coast of Maine and enjoying 'semi-retirement'. Serving (part time) for a health care foundation and various community projects and philanthropies. Ms Kacey H Parlatore Received an MA degree in Pre-Columbian Art History from the University of Florida, USA in 2002. Ms Sandra Peirce Thrilled to be co-pastor with a New College graduate, Andrew Headen (BD 1980). While at New College was co-terms, we only met 5 years ago when he moved to California to join our staff. Mr Roland Preuss Employed as a journalist at the Süddeutsche Zeitung, the German newspaper with the highest circulation of the non-tabloid papers. Ms Priyeha Vahali Attending Yale University Law School.

Mr Craig Statham
MSc 1999 BSc 2000 Currently working for a local council for a local council service. InformEd

Mr A Walker MA (SS) 1998 Currently managing the start-up phase of a unit for emotionally disturbed teenagers.

Miss Emily Boyle MA 1999 Studying clinical psychology and research in Glasgow at Gartnavel Royal Hospital.

Mr Jonathan Davies BSc 1998 Currently studying medicine at the University of Texas at Austin, USA, studying Science Education. Will receive MD in 2003.

Mr Michael Wodzicki MSc 2000 Currently studying for an MA in Medieval English Literature at York.

Miss Amelia joicey MA 2001 Currently studying cultural heritage management at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

Miss Fiona Moodie BSc 2001 Currently studying for a PhD, still two and a half years to go - must be mad!

Mr Jonathan Morgan 2001 MBA 2000 Currently working as a research capacity in electrical power engineering.


Mr Yannis Tolias PhD 2001 Currently Research Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), UoE.

Miss Catriona Young BSc 2001 Studying medicine as a postgraduate at Dundee University.

Mr Mr Alan P Cassidy BSc (M) 1997 MB ChB 2000 Currently working as a site director of Field Archaeologists.

Mr Mr Ian Wright BSc 1998 Currently studying medicine at the South Coast of England as the head coach to Warrrender Baths Club, one of Britain's leading swimming clubs.

2000s

Miss Maria Bertolino MSc 2000 Opened a department of reproductive health at a very well-known clinic in Argentina (Helius). Mr Ian Cowe BSc 2000 Now working in Aberdeen working for Food Enterprise UK as technical support officer to operations. Enjoying the new challenge and beginning to learn Welsh.

Mr Jonathan Davies BSc 2000 Recently completed a PhD on the Cultural Heritage of the Spanish Empire, which is sponsored by them at University College London researching 3D modelling.

Mr Thomas Steuart Forthright MBB 2000 Became a father on 30th September 2002 to Sandy. Mrs Fiona van Aswegen née Ward MBB A few months after the birth, Sandy and I moved to Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr Andrew Barnham MA 2001 Joined the Army. Hang on a sec, how did that happen? One moment an (almost) careered student and now at military academy. Things can never be planned.

Miss Kate Barnsby MA 2001 Studying for a Masters in Development Studies at Manchester University funded by ESRC.

Miss Elizabeth Elliot MA 2001 Currently studying for an MA in Medieval English Literature at York.

Miss Amelia joicey MA 2001 Currently studying cultural heritage management at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

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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.

AS YOU READ THIS, you will be aware that this is the first ‘new-style Billet’ that has been sent to you as pages in the new twice-yearly combined publication for all members of the General Council and other alumni. I warmly commend it, and hope that you find it relevant, readable and, above all, interesting. The publication still appears under the Edit banner, and retains many of the features of its first two volumes. All members of the General Council will therefore receive the June Billet, as well as the February one.

Participating in the planning of the new Billet within Edit has occupied a proportion of the General Council Officers’ time since June. Other matters have been the changes that have taken place this summer in the structure and management of the University. The Officers have met with the new Principal, Professor Tim O’Shea, and have joined the other University departments in welcoming him to his new charge. We have bidden farewell to the former Principal, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, thanked him for all that he has done for the University during his eight years in office, and wished him well for the next stage in his life.

We have begun holding briefing meetings with the new Heads of Colleges in succession to the former Deans of Faculties, you, too, will have the opportunity of hearing from them at future summer half-yearly meetings of Council. We are planning to bid farewell to the Rector, Robin Harper MSP, whose term of office ends in March 2003, and to welcome his successor at the summer half-yearly meeting.

At the summer meeting in June 2002 we floated with you the suggestion that Council consider holding its summer meeting in 2003 in London. The meeting received the suggestion positively but with some caution, and asked the Business Committee to investigate its feasibility. After detailed consideration and discussion by the Officers, the Committee agreed that the necessary preparations, including the need to publish the practical details in the preceding February Billet, were such that there was now not enough time to plan realistically for summer 2003, and that it was preferable to plan for such a meeting in June 2004. Preparations have therefore begun to hold a London meeting in June 2004. We intend to announce the practical details in the February 2004 Billet; so please watch this space!

Members and their guests who attended the General Council Festival Dinner in August have agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening. Our sincere thanks are due to Alan Johnston and Jean Gibson for organising the evening. We hope to repeat it in two years’ time.

I look forward to seeing you at the half-yearly meeting in February 2003 in Old College, and at the lunch afterwards in the Playfair Library Hall, and with you to meeting the new Principal and our guest of honour at lunch, Judge David Edward of the European Court of Justice.

The General Council will meet in Room G175, School of Law, Old College, on Saturday 8 February 2003 at 10.30am.

SUMMARY AGENDA
1. Result of the election of General Council Assessors and Members of the Business Committee
2. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the General Council held on 29 June 2002
3. Report of the Business Committee
4. Motion
5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council
6. Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University
7. Any other competent business
7.1. Student admissions policy (Mr William R B Bowie)
8. Adjournment
A Full Agenda is given on pages 47-49.

MEET OLD FRIENDS - MAKE NEW FRIENDS:
ON SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2003
10am to 10.30am: Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Moot Court Room, School of Law, Old College
10.30am: General Council Meeting in Room G175, School of Law, Old College
After the meeting: Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall (see page 49 for details)

POSTAL ELECTION
Candidates for Postal Election of General Council Assessors to the University Court

The following nominations have been received for the election of two Assessors to serve until 2007:

Mr George Lawrence Allen, BL 1961, FRMS, FRSA
Proposed by Robert Black, LLB 1968, LLM, QC, FRSE, FRSA, FFCS
Seconded by Anthony Buss, Regius Professor of Forensic Medicine, OBE, MOM, KHS, MD, FRCP, FRCP(E), FRCP(G), FRCS(E)
Solicitor and Notary Public (formerly, practising Advocate, Scots Bar). Edinburgh University OLL Tutor. Member, Health Technology Board for Scotland, Advisory Council; Member, representing The City of Edinburgh Council; the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee. Former Member, the Business Committee, and Curriculum and Quatercentenary Subcommittees, of the General Council of Edinburgh University. Immediate Past Chair, Lothian Victim Support; Immediate Past Chair, Victim Support Edinburgh; lately Member, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ Council, Policy Committee; lately Company Secretary, The National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (Action for Sick Children); lately Honorary Legal Advisor, Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (Citizens Advice Scotland).

Mr Robin Orr Blair, LLB 1963, MA
Proposed by Sir Kenneth Scott, MA 1932, KCW, CMG
Seconded by Sir Charles Fraser, MA 1953, KCV0, WSDL
Mr Blair was a Solicitor for thirty-five years, principally as a Partner in the Edinburgh law firm of Dundas & Wilson from 1967 to 1997,
being Managing Partner for twelve years. He has also held many business Directorships. He was Purse Bearer to the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland from 1989 to 2002. He was appointed Lord Lyon King of Arms and Secretary of the Order of the Thistle in February 2001. He co-authored two publications in the 1980s on the use of information technology in the legal profession.

Mr John Mayer, BCom 1987
 Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 Seconded by Sheila Kirk, BA 1977, LLB
 I am deeply grateful for my Edinburgh University education and am proud to serve the University again. The bridge between the ongoing work of the University and the alumni is vital for maintaining overall standards and confidence within and outwith the University. The quality of that link is obviously equally vital. As a 50-year old Advocate with good inter-personal skills, and my Business Committee experience, I am best placed to securely, accurately and effectively communicate to and from the Court. It would be a privilege and a personal honour to further serve our University as a General Council Assessor.

Mr Gavin Scott, BCom 1976, CA, MBA
 Proposed by Ann M Sutherland, MA 1960
 Seconded by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 As a former member of the Business Committee and Convenor of the Constitutional Standing Committee, I would be proud to represent the General Council on the University Court. Returning to the UK after a period with the UN in West Africa, I took up a position as Director of Finance and Administration within the Scottish Higher Education sector. In 2000 I studied for an MBA at Heriot Watt University, prior to moving into Management Consultancy. In my spare time I coach junior cricket, watch rugby and act as chauffeur to my children.

Mr John Geoffrey Sharps, MA 1958, BTh, MLitt, MEd, CPsychol, AFBPsS, FRGS, FRSA
 Proposed by James Morrison Noble, MA 1958
 Seconded by John MacArthur, MA 1958
 Former Member of the Business Committee of the General Council of Edinburgh University; Life Member of the University Union, of the University Graduates’ Association, of the University Library; Member of Hull University’s Court; Life Member and Former Honorary Treasurer of the Brontë Society; Life Member and Former President of the Gaskell Society; Author of Mrs Gaskell’s Observations and Invention: A Study of Her Non-Biographic Works; fully subscribes to Edinburgh University Court’s Total Endorsement of the Nolan Public Life Standards and Principles (Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership); sometime-Member of the Church of England York Diocesan Synod.

Mr William Alastair Paterson Weatherston, MA 1957, CB
 Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 Seconded by Mrs Margaret Tait, BSc 1965
 Married with grown-up family. After graduation and National Service I joined the Scottish Office in 1959. After thirty-six years serving in various Departments I retired in 1995. Final post as Under Secretary with responsibility for further and higher education. Secretary of the General Council from 1997 to 2001 and, therefore, familiar with the work of the Business Committee and Council. Would seek, if elected, to maintain relationship between the Council and Court. Concerned about issues like lack of priority being given to higher education expenditure in Scotland and the financial position of the University.

Candidates for Postal Election of Members to the Business Committee

The following nominations have been received for the election of five members to serve until 2007:

Mr George Lawrence Allen, BL 1961
 Proposed by Robert Black, LLB 1968, LLM, QC, FRSE, FRSA, FFCS
 Seconded by Anthony Buatint, Regius Professor of Forensic Medicine, OBE, MOM, KHS, MD, FRC Path, DMJ(Path), FRCP(E), FRCP(G), FRCS(E)
 Solicitor and Notary Public (formerly practising Advocate, Scots Bar). Edinburgh University OLL Tutor. Member, Health Technology Board for Scotland, Advisory Council; Member, representing The City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee. Former Member, the Business Committee, and Curriculum and Quatercentenary Subcommittees, of the General Council of Edinburgh University.

Mr William Robertson Belhitt Bowie, BSc 1961
 Proposed by Dr Howard Frederick Andrew, BSc Hons 1960, PhD, DipEd, FRSC
 Seconded by Sheila Kirk, BA 1977, LLB
 I am a Chartered Civil Engineer. After training as a structural engineer I joined a construction company. In 1972 I went overseas (Uganda, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Ethiopia and China) where I built roads, bridges, dams and wharves. From 1981 I was the MD of an overseas company.

Ms Carole Clarke, MA 1991
 Proposed by Elizabeth M Rose, MB ChB 1939

FRCOG
 Seconded by Gavin W T Scott, BCom 1976, CA, MBA
 Before becoming a full-time mother of young children, Carole did amongst other things work for a University Lifelong Learning Department. She now keeps a live connection with Edinburgh students by supporting the University Chamber Choir, with whom she occasionally performs as a soloist.

Mr Gavin Douglas, MA 1953, RD, QC, LLB
 Proposed by Mrs Margaret Tait, BSc 1965
 Seconded by Rev John W M Cameron, MA 1953, BD

Mr Lorimer David Maurice MacKenzie
 MA 1964
 Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 Seconded by Martin Hayman, BSc 1994
 I spent thirty-seven years in public service, variously with the Scottish Office and the European Commission. I recently retired as Director for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship. I continue with voluntary advisory and editorial work in this field. I was recently appointed Chevalier in the Ordre national du mérite of France.

Sir Francis McWilliams, BSc 1945
 Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 Seconded by Sheila Kirk BA 1977, LLB
 The candidate worked as a Civil Engineer for twenty-three years. He returned to UK in 1976 and was called to the English Bar in 1978. He was elected an Alderman of the City of London in 1980, and was Lord Mayor of London in 1992/93. He resides in East Lothian.

Ms Anne Paterson, BSc 1968
 Proposed by Elizabeth M Rose, MB ChB 1939
 FRCOG
 Seconded by Gavin W T Scott, BCom 1976, CA, MBA
 After graduating Anne moved to London, trained as a social worker, and worked in a hospital and two area teams. She subsequently worked in a detached youth work project in Glasgow, and is now the co-ordinator of a cancer awareness project. Her interests include health, equal opportunities and anti-discrimination.

Mr Alan David Reith, BSc 1957, FHSIM, FBIM

Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 Seconded by Sheila Kirk BA 1977, LLB

I am a Chartered Civil Engineer. After training as a structural engineer I joined a construction company. In 1972 I went overseas (Uganda, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Ethiopia and China) where I built roads, bridges, dams and wharves. From 1981 I was the MD of an overseas company.

Ms Carole Clarke, MA 1991
 Proposed by Elizabeth M Rose, MB ChB 1939

FRCOG
 Seconded by Gavin W T Scott, BCom 1976, CA, MBA
 Before becoming a full-time mother of young children, Carole did amongst other things work for a University Lifelong Learning Department. She now keeps a live connection with Edinburgh students by supporting the University Chamber Choir, with whom she occasionally performs as a soloist.

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 Proposed by Mrs Margaret Tait, BSc 1965
 Seconded by Rev John W M Cameron, MA 1953, BD

Mr Lorimer David Maurice MacKenzie
 MA 1964
 Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
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Ms Anne Paterson, BSc 1968
 Proposed by Elizabeth M Rose, MB ChB 1939
 FRCOG
 Seconded by Gavin W T Scott, BCom 1976, CA, MBA
 After graduating Anne moved to London, trained as a social worker, and worked in a hospital and two area teams. She subsequently worked in a detached youth work project in Glasgow, and is now the co-ordinator of a cancer awareness project. Her interests include health, equal opportunities and anti-discrimination.

Mr Alan David Reith, BSc 1957, FHSIM, FBIM

Proposed by Peter Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot
 Seconded by Sheila Kirk BA 1977, LLB

I am a Chartered Civil Engineer. After training as a structural engineer I joined a construction company. In 1972 I went overseas (Uganda, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Ethiopia and China) where I built roads, bridges, dams and wharves. From 1981 I was the MD of an overseas company.

Ms Carole Clarke, MA 1991
 Proposed by Elizabeth M Rose, MB ChB 1939

FRCOG
 Seconded by Gavin W T Scott, BCom 1976, CA, MBA
 Before becoming a full-time mother of young children, Carole did amongst other things work for a University Lifelong Learning Department. She now keeps a live connection with Edinburgh students by supporting the University Chamber Choir, with whom she occasionally performs as a soloist.
Proposed by David Burton, BSc 1958
Seconded by Alistair D Howie, BSc (1968) MB CBB, FRCP

Mr John Geoffrey Sharps, MA 1958, BTh, MLitt, MEd, CPsychol, AFIBPsS, FRGS, FRSA
Proposed by James Morrison Noble, MA 1958
Seconded by John MacArthur, MA 1958
Former Business Committee Member, Life Member of the University Union, of the University Graduates’ Association, of the University Library; Member of the Court of Hull University; Life Member and Former Honorary Treasurer of the Bronte Society; Life Member and Former President of the Gaskell Society; English Association Life Member.

Points were raised in connexion with the procedures for motions, and on St Cecilia’s Hall. The Convener said that the former matter would be referred to the Constitutional Standing Committee, and that the second had been raised with the Director of Estates & Building, who had confirmed that the fabric of the building is sound but there is an overall lack of resources for further developments.

2.2 Report of the Business Committee
Mr Freshwater, Convenor of the Business Committee, gave his report. Exploratory discussions had begun with Development & Alumni and Communications & Public Affairs to examine whether there was scope to co-ordinate publications and mailings to General Council members and other alumni. A Working Group was being set up to look at the feasibility of a combined Bill and EDIT publication. The Business Committee would consider the Group’s report at its September meeting. The General Council agreed in principle that the final decision should be taken by the Business Committee at its September meeting.

The Convener welcomed the appointment of Professor Tim O’Shea, Master of Birkbeck College, London, as the next Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh; and the Heads of College in the University’s restructured organization: Professor Vicki Bruce, Humanities and Social Science; Professor John Savill, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine; and Professor Grahame Bulfield, Science and Engineering. He also welcomed the appointments of Mr Nigel Paul, the new Director of Corporate Services, and Mr Ian Conn, the new Director of Communications and External Affairs. Ms Catrin Tilley, Director of Development & Alumni, had been appointed by the University Court to be the new Registrar of the General Council, and the Convener and the other Office-bearers looked forward to working with her. The General Council Register was now available for consultation on CD-ROM in the major sites of the University Library. It had been suggested that the General Council hold the half-yearly meeting on Saturday 28 June 2003 in London. There was a large number of active and interested members of Council and of the Edinburgh University Club of London living and working in the south of England, and travel to London would be convenient for members living in the Midlands and North of England. The suggestion had been discussed by the Business Committee, which commended it to the meeting of Council as a one-off experiment, and subject to the costs of holding the meeting being containable within available resources. The meeting accepted the proposal in principle, subject to further investigation in terms of feasibility and cost. The report of the Business Committee was approved.

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

2.3 Motion
Proposed by: Miss Cecilia E Giles, CBE, MA(1945)
Seconded by: Sir Alan Hume, CB, MA(1934)
Supported by: Duncan H McVie, MB ChB(1950)
(Mrs) Mary W McVie, BSc(1946), MB ChB(1950)
John G Sturrock, QC LLB(1980), LLM
John C Bartholomew, MA(1950)
J A R MacLean, BSc(1939), PhD, CChem, FRSC
(Mrs) Mary W MacLean, MA(1941)
(Mrs) E D’Arcy G Howell (née McGeorge), MA(1951)
A R Mills, PhD(1962)
(Mrs) Jennifer M Munro (née Cochran), MA(1959)
(Mrs) Frances Dawson, MA(1950)
The Very Rev. William J G McDonald, MA(1949), BD(1952), Hon DD(1987)
David Millar, OBE, MA(1951)
(Mrs) Helen Josephine Millar, LLB(1956)
Iain Ferguson MacLaren, MB ChB(1949)
(Mrs) Mary Noble, MA(1954), PhD(1958)
(Lady) Camilla Cowie, MA(1976)
(Mrs) Lydia Skinner, MA(1951)

That, at a time when circumstances have necessitated the conclusion of the existence of Faculties and of Deans, the General Council records its recognition of and gratitude for the outstanding and distinguished service given to the University, over many generations, by Deans of the Faculties, whose dedication, leadership and loyalty has contributed so much to the well-being of the Alma Mater.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

2.4 Dates of future meetings of the General Council
The 2003 General Council meetings will be held on Saturday 8 February and Saturday 28 June 2003. Any motions for discussion at the General Council meeting on 8 February 2003 should be received in the General Council Office by 20 November 2002.

2.5 Notice of forthcoming Elections
The election of two Assessors to the University Court and five members of the Business Committee to serve from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2007 will take place in February 2003. Nominations on forms that are available from the Secretary of the General Council should be received in the General Council Office by 20 November 2002. Any motion for discussion at the General Council meeting on 8 February 2003 should be received in the General Council office by 20 November 2002.
A TIME OF CHANGE

2.6 Presentation by Dr Lyn Collins, Vice-Provost, Law and Social Sciences Faculty Group

The sub-title of Dr Collins’s presentation was ‘Déjà vu with some differences’. He noted that this was the last time that there would be a report from the Faculty Group of Law & Social Sciences. In 1997 Professor MacCormick had explained why the University had set up faculty groups such as the Faculty Group of Law & Social Sciences. Some years ago when the University faced acute financial difficulties, it had employed consultants to examine ways of managing its affairs. They had recommended dividing the strictly academic activity into four main units, each with a responsible budget-holder. Faculties continued to report to the Senate of the University, but they were grouped together for management purposes, and Faculty Groups were presided over by Provosts.

In 1997 Professor MacCormick had said that it would be his successor’s task to argue, discuss and help the overall vision of the University to succeed in keeping a balanced view of the whole republic of learning, and he believed that Faculty Groups must accept better focusing and stronger prioritization. This also mirrored the views of the then new Principal, Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland. The question that he put to all Heads of Planning Units was, ‘What are you good at, what are you not so good at, and what are you going to do about it?’ That is the most challenging question you can put to any academic institution. The present restructuring process is a bold attempt to address many of these issues. The diminishing unit of resource is a particularly worrying problem. We teach more for less. From 1997 student staff ratios in some large core departments have risen to thirty to one. We have to recognise that if Government believes that 40% of school leavers should be given the opportunity of a university education, as they do in many other countries, then clearly we cannot provide the same level and type of university education as we did when only 11% of school leavers went to university. In the University we must change the way we organize ourselves, change the way we teach, and change how much and what we teach, if we are to maintain our level of research activity to secure necessary income.

The restructuring will involve the creation of three colleges within the University: the College of Science & Engineering, the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The major challenge is for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In the first two Colleges, most of the structures are already in place but in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, six Faculties with their own traditions and practices are being brought together to act as one. These are the Faculties of Arts, Divinity, Music, Education, Law and Social Sciences.

The main event of 2002 was the unprecedented Senate vote on 29 May to decide the future structure of the academic year. After a full year of intensive work by a working party, many communications on the academic year website and countless consultative meetings, three options were put to a special meeting of Senate. The result was a resounding victory for option C, which is now scheduled to start in the academic year 2004-2005, and will mean that the new academic year will begin in mid-September. The second term after Christmas will be for teaching only with no examinations, and the third term will be for examinations only.

A full text of Dr Collins’s presentation is contained in the Annex to the Billet.

2.7 Any other competent business

No matters were raised.

2.8 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.

Father Simon Gaine closed the meeting with a benediction.

3. Report of the Business Committee

4. Motion

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

(1) Change 5.7 by replacing it with the following: The Business Committee shall be composed of:

* 20 members of the General Council, elected by the General Council, or co-opted hereinafter provided, and serving as hereinafter provided,
* a Convener and a Vice-Convener appointed and serving as provided for in clause 5.8 hereof,
* 3 assessors to the University Court, elected and appointed by the General Council and serving as ex officio members of The Business Committee,
* the Chancellor’s Assessor and the Secretary of the General Council, both serving as ex officio members of The Business Committee.

Elected members of The Business Committee serve for a period of up to four years from the first day of the October immediately succeeding the date of their election. On the expiry of said period of service they shall be eligible for re-election at the annual February meeting of the General Council immediately succeeding the expiry of their four-year period of service.

A member of The Business Committee who is appointed the Convener or the Vice-Convener of The Business Committee shall serve in that capacity for a period of four years from the date of taking up such office, notwithstanding that their period of service of four years has expired or expires during their term of convenerhip. A member of The Business Committee who is appointed Convener of a Standing Committee of the Business Committee serves in that latter capacity only until the expiry of their four-year period of service as a member of The Business Committee.

Where the number of members of The Business Committee falls short of 20 by reason of the expiry of an elected member’s period of service, the vacancy or vacancies thereby created shall be filled by election by the General Council at its next annual February meeting.

Where the number of members of The Business Committee falls short of 20 by reason of the appointment of a member as Convener or Vice-Convener of The Business Committee or by reason of the death or early retiral of a member of The Business Committee, The Business Committee may co-opt to its number to fill such vacancies. A co-opted member shall serve for the unexpired period of service of the member they replace, and they shall be eligible, during their last year, for election to The Business Committee for a four-year period of service as an elected member. Co-opted members shall have the same powers to vote and rights to be nominated to office as have elected members. Where at any time a Vice-Convener of The Business Committee is appointed as Convener of The Business Committee, he or she shall then serve in that capacity for a period of four years from the date of taking up office as Convener.

(2) Retain 5.8 as drafted, but deleting ‘as thus constituted’ from the first line, and inserting immediately after ‘years’ at the beginning of the fourth line the words ‘from the date of their taking up office’.

Proposed by the Business Committee.

The Constitution text (May 2002) is available at: www.general.council.ed.ac.uk/constitution.doc. Copies of the relevant sections will be available at the meeting on 8 February, or may be obtained in advance by applying to Mrs Jean Gibson, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT.

5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

6. Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University

7. Any other competent business
7.1. Student admissions policy  
(Mr William R B Bowie)  
8. 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 29 June 2002. 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

Before the General Council Lunch on 29 June 2002, left to right:  
Mr Peter B Freshwater (Convener of the Business Committee), Dr Ann Matheson (Secretary of the General Council), Mr Alan Johnston (Vice-Convener of the Business Committee), Professor Nigel Osborne (Dean of the Faculty of Music), who gave the after-lunch address, Mr Robin Harper (Rector), and Dr Lyn Collins (Vice-Provost, Law and Social Sciences Faculty Group).

The February 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 8 February 2003 in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College. Judge David Edward CMG FRSE will give the after-lunch address.

Tickets at £13 include pre-lunch sherry and a three-course meal in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available for purchase. Tickets can be obtained from the General Council Office, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT.

The February 2003 General Council Lunch  
Please send me ____ tickets for the 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.  
Website: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk
Doi moi - literally ‘open door’ - the economic restructuring programme in Vietnam, took me to the country as part of a group trade mission assessing potato production. But during one lunchtime in Hanoi, it was a more unusual food that was uppermost in our thoughts.

Flying into the city from the highlands, we had already encountered a variety of strange sights, including the enormous concrete chicken in the appropriately-named Chicken Village. By late afternoon, we were ready for lunch, and set off to the old quarter of the city to find somewhere to buy pho, Vietnamese noodle broth. So far in our trip, we had eaten well but simply: fish, pork, goat, vegetables and, of course, plenty of rice. We had decided against the snake, rat, dog and bear paws - but our culinary adventures were not over!

As we passed a street café, my eyes were drawn to a display of neatly-arranged Tiger beer cans in the window. As I looked closer, I saw what looked like small fists sticking out of them. This obviously required closer scrutiny, so we sat down on brightly-coloured kindergarten chairs on the pavement outside and ordered a couple of beers while we contemplated this odd sight. Only then did I realise they were not hands, but were in fact birds’ feet. The young chef was boiling up food in the cans in a huge pot of hot water on a makeshift gas ring. The meals were even coded, with a different beer for each food type - Ba Ba Ba was all vegetables, Hanoi was pork and so on.

As we sat there, an endless stream of Honda motorcycles drifted up and down the street, carrying young men, pretty girls and even whole families of up to five on one bike. These new customers would casually order the beer can delicacy, swiftly eating the contents with chopsticks. Some chose a take-away, where can and contents were wrapped in a Hanoi newspaper along with a small pack of salt and a quarter of a lime, all tied up in a plastic bag. This was our preferred option. We handed over sufficient dong in exchange and headed for a patch of grass to investigate ‘oor cairry oot’. A local T-shirt seller watched with interest as we took lots of photos of our feast, but stopped short of actually eating it. We had a long night ahead on the express to Hue, and Vietnamese trains are not renowned for their facilities. So we set off, still unfed, leaving the T-shirt seller with the bird in the beer can, and us with two new T-shirts.

John Marshall graduated BSc Agriculture in 1973