Alumnus of the Year 2007
Human rights lawyer
Emily Maw in conversation with Sheena McDonald

ALSO INSIDE:
Edinburgh's innovative new centre for motor neurone disease research
A year in focus: Edit reviews the past academic year

In this issue we meet a number of friends and fellow alumni including those behind the groundbreaking Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research. We also join Sheena McDonald in conversation with the Alumnus of the Year 2007, Emily Maw, whose dedication and contribution to criminal justice in the US will make all Edinburgh Alumni justly proud. In addition we take a look at the University’s achievements throughout 2006/07 in our Review of the Year. A more detailed account can be found at www.ed.ac.uk/annual-review.

2008 is set to be a great year as we expand and strengthen our alumni networks throughout the world. We’re also delighted that the General Council will be holding their June meeting in Washington, D.C. for the first time. This promises to be a momentous and historic occasion. A Voting Paper for the election of members of the Council’s Business Committee is also enclosed.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Young P Dawkins III
Vice-Principal, Development

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(including details of the General Council Meeting in Washington 2008)
Scotland’s first Confucius Institute launched

A national centre to promote economic, educational and cultural ties between Scotland and China was launched in September at the University by First Minister Alex Salmond.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland will join a global network of more than 140 institutes to develop effective business, cultural and academic programmes to develop awareness of modern China, its history and culture.

To mark the Institute’s opening, the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, known as Hanban, donated a bronze bust of the Chinese educator and philosopher Confucius, and officials from Zhuhai city donated a bronze statue of Huang Kuan, the first Chinese graduate of any European University. Huang Kuan graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh in 1857.

New veterinary cancer centre to benefit animals and humans

A £3 million veterinary research centre, to be based at the University, will enable scientists to deepen their understanding of cancer and inflammatory diseases and to develop new therapies. The Cancer Centre, due to open in June 2008, will be a key part of a £100 million investment in the development of the ‘Dick Vet’ at Easter Bush, Midlothian.

Under the directorship of Professor David Argyle, the Centre is about more than just animal health, and will be ideally placed to offer research in animal cancers as a model for human cancer.

Combining radiotherapy with new advanced imaging technologies, the Centre will be able to offer the most comprehensive range of cancer therapies in Europe, placing it in the top five veterinary cancer centres in the world.

As well as supporting clinical research, the Centre will enhance the educational experience of the students of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, providing improved training facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

US-based lawyer Emily Maw, who specialises in fighting miscarriages of justice, has been named the University of Edinburgh’s Alumnus of the Year 2007.

Emily, 31, Director of The Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO), was presented with the prestigious award at a ceremony in the McEwan Hall.

Nominees are now invited for the Alumnus of the Year Award 2008. The award is made annually to a former student for services to the community, achievements in arts or sciences, in business, public or academic life.

Nominations and to see a full list of past winners, please visit www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk or contact us (details on page 1) to request a nomination form.
University News

University of Edinburgh Campaign tops £200m

The University of Edinburgh Campaign has passed the £200 million mark and is well on target to meet its goals.

The Campaign aims to raise £350 million by 2011 in order to fund world-class research, build state-of-the-art facilities and provide a range of scholarships. Its initial success is due to an exhaustive worldwide programme of networking and fundraising.

For the last financial year, £51 million has been recorded, leaving just £150 million to attain in the remaining four years. Over £4.6 million of funds raised in the past year come from legacies.

Vice-Principal of Development, Young Dawkins, says: “People recognise that making a stronger University makes a stronger Scotland. The gifts we receive make a huge difference to the University, its students and to the impact of the University’s research on the world.”

Recent philanthropic gifts include a seven-figure donation to fund the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research (see page 14) and a bequest of 1,000 clarinets and £600,000 from Sir Nicholas Shackleton’s estate.

Law Tercentenary

Campaign success

Significant progress has been made in raising funds for the University’s Law Tercentenary Campaign, with £500,000 already donated by alumni and sponsors.

Primarily, the funds raised will go towards 10 new scholarships and a travel award, a new moot court facility and the refurbishment of the Law Library. The Campaign is also financing a Europa Institute Fellow and a high-profile lecture series on human rights.

The Law Tercentenary Campaign was established to enhance the future of the School of Law during its 300th anniversary year. As part of the celebrations, more than 300 alumni converged on Edinburgh in June for a reunion weekend, and special graduation ceremonies and events were held throughout 2007.

Library fundraising reaches milestone

A total of £1.35 million has been raised to date for the five-year £60 million redevelopment of Edinburgh University Library.

The sum raised includes a £400,000 bequest from former student Dr Henry Adam and donations from three charitable trusts – £200,000 from the Wolfson Foundation, £350,000 from the Gannochy Trust, and £100,000 from the Binks Trust.

The top two floors of the Library are being transformed into a Centre for Research Collections. The collections include a library that belonged to the philosopher and economist Adam Smith; the manuscript of Robert Burns’ Address to Edinburgh; and an original copy of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet with stage notes.

The next step will be to redevelop the Library’s remaining six floors, which will feature a variety of innovative study spaces ranging from group study pods to quiet desks, all with wireless internet access to support the use of digital library resources.

Chancellor honours academic excellence

Three innovative academics have received Chancellor’s Awards in 2007 in recognition of their contribution to the University and beyond.

The Chancellor of the University, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, presented the awards to the academics in front of some 200 supporters and alumni at a dinner in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in August.

The School of Chemistry’s Professor David Leigh picked up the Research Award in recognition of his pioneering work on nanotechnology. Professor Leigh has made a series of fundamental advances in synthetic molecular systems, including a motor-mechanism for artificial nanomachines inspired by James Clerk Maxwell’s 140-year-old theoretical experiment, Maxwell’s Demon”. Professor Susan Rhind, of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, received the Teaching Award. Professor Rhind was appointed Director of Veterinary Teaching in 2003, and has since been leading educational development within the Vet School.

Professor Donald Bloxham, of the School of History and Classics, was honoured with the Rising Star Award. He has built a reputation for his research into genocide and war crimes, and his latest book, The Greatest Game of Genocide, won the 2007 Raphael Lemkin Prize.

Now in their fifth year, the Chancellor’s Awards recognise innovation, relevance, creativity and personal dedication.

Michael Palin receives honorary degree

Actor, author and broadcaster Michael Palin was just one of many distinguished names to receive an honorary degree from the University during the summer. Michael was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Catherine Lockerbie, Director of the Edinburgh Book Festival (Doctor of Letters); Professor Walter Nimmo, former Chief Executive Officer of Inveresk Research (Doctor of Medicine); and Tony George Stanger, rugby union player and coach (Doctor of Education).

For all the latest University news, visit: www.ed.ac.uk/news

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For all the latest University news, visit: www.ed.ac.uk/news

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McCarthy and Rogers named James Tait Black winners

Cormac McCarthy and Byron Rogers have been named as the winners of 2007’s James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, the University’s annual literary awards.

At a ceremony held at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Cormac picked up the fiction prize for his novel The Road, while Byron was presented with the biography prize for his work on poet RS Thomas, The Man Who Went Into the West.

Established in 1919, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes are Britain’s oldest literary awards. They are the only awards of their kind to be presented by a University and have acquired an international reputation for recognising excellence in biography and fiction.

Past winners have included Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith, Ian McEwan, DH Lawrence, EM Forster and Graham Greene.
The University of Edinburgh, Scottish Enterprise and NHS Lothian have formed a joint venture to develop a new commercial research campus at the Centre for Biomedical Research, and are collaborating with life science property specialists Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc.

The campus, next to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the University’s Queen’s Medical Research Institute at Little France, has been re-branded as Edinburgh BioQuarter.

Planning permission has been granted for around 1.4 million square feet of academic, institutional and commercial life science space. The multi-occupancy building will house state-of-the-art facilities to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation and offer access to lab space for exploratory research.

Once complete, the project is expected to generate an additional £350 million per annum for the Scottish economy with the development creating one of Europe’s top centres for biomedical research.

Professor John Savill, Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, says: “The new campus will provide an environment in which our scientists can work in close collaboration with commercial partners to ensure that the groundbreaking research we undertake in life sciences is put to the best possible use.”

Edinburgh BioQuarter will house state-of-the-art facilities.

The recently released Times Higher World University rankings rated Edinburgh as one of the world’s leading universities.

Edinburgh has been placed in the top 25 institutions in the world, showing a climb of 10 places to the 23rd spot, compared to last year’s rankings.

The THES ranking is based on a number of factors, but significant among these is a peer review survey, the views of thousands of top academics and leading employers are taken into account when compiling the final rankings.

Meanwhile, the University of Edinburgh Management School has jumped 21 places in the Financial Times 2007 Global Executive MBA Rankings. Edinburgh was one of only 12 UK schools to make it into the rankings, which rate the top Executive MBA programmes in the world.

Edinburgh moved up three places to seventh in the UK-based part-time programmes, and was placed 48th in the world – a rise of 21 places. Edinburgh is the only Scottish Business School to feature in the rankings.

Edinburgh moves up in rankings

The University’s fundamental mission is the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and understanding.

Edinburgh BioQuarter will house state-of-the-art facilities.

I wish to join the Carlyle Circle and help the University continue its pioneering work

I can enable future students to benefit from some of the privileges which I myself enjoyed. I hope it will also go some measure towards repaying my own debt of appreciation for four of the most memorable and happy years of my life.

Please tick one of the following:

- I have already included a gift to the University in my Will
- I am considering adding a gift to the University to my Will
- I would like to discuss a possible gift with the Legacy Manager

Every year we publish the names of the Carlyle Circle members: publishing this list helps to encourage others to follow your example. Please tick if you would prefer not to be listed as a member of the Carlyle Circle.

Please return this reply slip to: The University of Edinburgh Development Trust, FREEPOST EH965, Edinburgh, EH8 0BR

Your details may be used by the University, its agents and recognised alumni clubs for a range of activities including sending publications, offering benefits and services, organising events and in our fundraising programme. Where you have provided telephone or e-mail details, we may contact you using these media. If you would prefer not to be included in any of these activities, please tick this box [ ] . We will then contact you to record your wishes.

Logo of the University of Edinburgh Campaign
Hormone therapy hope for ovarian cancer

Researchers at the University have shown that hormone therapy can extend life in ovarian cancer patients, giving women a new alternative to chemotherapy.

A recent study has proved for the first time that the targeted use of an anti-oestrogen drug could prolong the life of some patients by up to three years, and delay the use of chemotherapy in others. Letrozole hormone therapy – already used with great success in the treatment of breast tumours – attacks cancer by turning off its oestrogen supply.

Researchers now believe that in those ovarian cancers that are highly sensitive to oestrogen, this blocking mechanism could slow the growth and spread of disease.

Dr Simon Langdon, Senior Lecturer in Cancer Research, says: “This research presents new possibilities for tailor-made cancer therapy and demands further investigation.”

New degree prepares business leaders for carbon economy

The University is launching a postgraduate degree in carbon management. The new programme is designed to help equip business leaders to make greener decisions.

The one-year MSc programme – among the first of its kind in the world – is open to business and economics graduates as well as environmental scientists. It will launch in September 2008, subject to approval.

Edinburgh one of UK’s greenest universities

The University has been ranked as one of the UK’s top 10 greenest higher education institutions by a new “green” league table.

Edinburgh finished joint eighth in the Times Higher Education Supplement Green League, a survey of all 120 British Universities published by the University of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh finished joint eighth in the Green League, a survey of all 120 British Universities published by the Times Higher Education Supplement to coincide with World Environment Day.

The survey, which was compiled by student campaigners People and Planet, incorporates data never before published in the public domain obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, including the percentage of energy purchased from renewable sources, percentage of waste recycled and climate change emissions from each institution.

David Somervell, the University’s Energy and Sustainability Manager, says: “This is a welcome reflection of 15 years’ progress towards environmental sustainability.”

Breakthrough for breast cancer sufferers

A groundbreaking new breast cancer research unit is to be set up at the University to develop new treatments for breast cancer patients.

The Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit, Edinburgh, due to open in 2008, is one of three research units being set up across England and Scotland.

It will be led by Mike Dixon, Consultant Surgeon at the Western General Hospital, and Professor David Harrison, Director of the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre.

The Unit will be based at the soon-to-be-launched Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, with laboratories adjacent to the Edinburgh Breast Unit of the Western General Hospital.

The Unit will be one of three research units being set up across England and Scotland.

The team will use the latest technology to analyse biological changes in hormone-positive breast cancers, which account for 80 per cent of all invasive breast cancers.

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Mr Dixon, Clinical Lead of the Unit, says: “From this course a cohort of experts will enter business and, as they rise through the ranks, impact on energy use in the global economy, and play a part in moving towards a low-carbon economy.”

New figures show that the University won a record £210 million to fund its research in 2006/07 – an increase of almost 50 per cent on the previous financial year.

The investment supports work across a range of disciplines, including medicine, veterinary medicine, science, engineering and the humanities.

The awards are made from a variety of sources, including government, industry, commerce and charities, and 40 of the 943 awards were for more than £1 million.

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Recognition for instruments collection

The University’s Collection of Historic Musical Instruments is one of 10 collections now officially recognised as being significant to Scotland.

The University’s collection ranks among the world’s most important collections of musical heritage. All the main types of musical instrument are represented, and are on show in two museums (St Cecilia’s Hall Museum of Instruments and Reid Concert Hall Museum of Instruments). The 3,000 objects in the permanent collection are an important resource for research and include many models of musical instrument spanning more than 500 years.

Researchers to focus on family lifestyles to curb diabetes spread

Edinburgh researchers have teamed up with colleagues from the University of Glasgow to focus on family lifestyles in a new approach to preventing diabetes.

The new study – the first of its kind in the UK – will test whether involving whole families in weight loss and fitness initiatives is effective in preventing the development of type 2 diabetes among high-risk family members.

The £1 million study will focus specifically on people of Indian and Pakistani origin, who are five times more likely to develop late onset diabetes than the rest of the population.

Dieticians will visit 300 families at home over the next three years and provide culturally specific advice on nutrition and exercise.

Researchers hope to reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes by 50 per cent, and believe that by focusing on high-risk families they will find strategies that can be applied more widely.

University receives SII accreditation

The University is the first of a select group of UK universities outside London to be designated a Securities & Investment Institute (SII) Centre of Excellence. The designation will offer Edinburgh graduates a significant head start when progressing their financial services careers.

The Centre of Excellence designation means that graduates in the MSc Finance and Investment programme will also be eligible for the award of the SII Diploma (which will become formally known as the “SII Masters” programme) without having to take any of the SII exams.

In order to achieve the SII Masters, graduates of the above programme will need to have become an SII student member by the first day of the second semester of their Edinburgh Masters programme. They will also take and pass the SII online Integrity & Ethics learning programme.

Following these qualifying criteria, the graduates will then be eligible for full SII membership. In addition students will be eligible to compete for the SII’s Stephen Cooke Award and other SII Awards.

SII and the University of Edinburgh will share good practice in assessment and quality assurance and will establish a joint annual lecture to encourage students to combine academic and professionally related learning.

£1m gift will help study of Scots’ influence overseas

A leading financier and his wife have pledged their support for a new historical centre at the University, which will study the influence of Scots abroad.

Investment fund manager Alan McFarlane and his wife, Anne, have donated £1 million to the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, to support two PhD scholarships in perpetuity and provide 10 undergraduate access bursaries to help students in financial need.

The gift is believed to be the largest private donation to a history-related project at a British university. The McFarlanes are both Edinburgh graduates.

The £5 million Centre, due to open in 2008, will be headed by historian and bestselling author, Professor Tom Devine. To be located in the University’s School of History, Classics and Archaeology, it will explore the experiences of Scottish migrants in different countries throughout history.

A key focus of the Centre’s work will be to examine how Scots shaped society, economies and culture in countries around the world – particularly in North America, Australia and New Zealand. Final plans for the Centre will be unveiled in 2008.

Special Collections calendar launched

The University’s Special Collections has launched its 2008 calendar – the third in the series. The theme for this year’s calendar is Travel.

The University has always been global in its outlook, and its staff and students have traveled the world studying and documenting its natural wonders. From rope bridges in the Himalayas to rafts in Ecuador, the 2008 calendar contains a small sample of images from an extensive collection which both reflects the generosity of benefactors and academic endeavour throughout the centuries.

The images are drawn mainly from the magnificent collection of hand-coloured plate books in Special Collections, Edinburgh University Library, with all the high quality photography performed by the Library’s Digital Imaging Unit. Proceeds from the sale will support conservation and care of the University’s collections. For mail order please visit www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk

RESEARCH NEWS IN BRIEF

Hand-held supercomputers!

University engineers are a step closer to creating supercomputers that can fit inside a mobile phone.

Researchers from the School of Engineering and Electronics, working in collaboration with colleagues from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and University of Rome, have examined how tiny wires – 1,000 times thinner than a human hair – behave when manipulated.

The insights will be crucial to creating the wiring in the ever-smaller computers of the future.

Malaria treatment hope

People with blood group O are naturally protected from the most severe forms of malaria, Edinburgh scientists have discovered.

Their findings point to new avenues of research for drugs or vaccines, which recreate the protection offered by this blood type, which is common in tropical countries.

Scientists at the University and researchers in the US, Mali and Kenya studied African children and found that those with blood type O were two thirds less likely to experience unrousable coma or life-threatening anaemia, which are both characteristic of severe malaria.

Cancer therapies discovery

Edinburgh scientists have made a surprising discovery about a key protein that repairs damaged human cells. The findings may prove a vital step in the quest to find treatments for certain types of cancers.

Scientists who had been studying the genetic make-up of the SEPS3 protein to better understand its role in tissue repair have found it may also play a part in our immune system’s defence against some cancers.

Cancer researchers will now investigate the link between the protein SEPS3, viruses and cancer.
Cystic fibrosis study dents superbug’s armour

Edinburgh scientists, in collaboration with colleagues in Canada, have discovered a weakness in a potentially life-threatening superbug that particularly affects people with cystic fibrosis.

Burkholderia cepacia complex are virulent and contagious bacteria and an important cause of life-threatening lung infection in cystic fibrosis patients. The highly adaptable pathogens are naturally resistant to most of the major groups of antibiotics. Microbiologists and chemists at the universities of Edinburgh, Western Ontario and Manitoba, Canada, working in collaboration, have however, identified an ‘Achilles heel’ in the organism that could lead to effective antimicrobial treatment. Their discovery focuses on preventing bacteria from forming a sugar-based armour in their cell wall, which enables them to resist killing by a major group of antibiotics.

Dominic Campopiano, of the School of Chemistry, says: “Now that we have found that it has a weakness, we hope that by preventing it from forming this sugar armour we may achieve a much needed breakthrough in antibiotic therapy against these life-threatening pathogens.”

Edinburgh graduate wins top software engineering award

Informatics graduate and University employee Hui (Michael) Sun has won the prestigious ScotlandIS Young Software Engineer of the Year Award for 2007.

The award is given for the best undergraduate software projects drawn from across all students studying computer science and software engineering in Scotland. Michael’s winning project was a piece of software, which, when installed on a Java-enabled mobile phone, allows the owner to restrict use of the phone using image recognition techniques and the phone’s internal camera. The project has already attracted some commercial interest.

Since graduating in 2007, Michael has been working as a software developer for IS Applications at the University.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Madam

Congratulations to the University of Edinburgh for being part of the Fairtrade movement. There is a growing body of public opinion that is concerned about the trading methods of wealthy nations and the detrimental effects on poor countries. I support a Fairtrade organisation where workers regularly report that they have no doubt their lifestyle is benefiting. I am realistic enough to see that it is not a perfect system, however, the only way to affect change is in the way we spend our money and to support organisations that lobby governments.

I hope Dr Walter Nimmo (Edit Summer 07, page 10) sees it as morally wrong to buy supermarket clothes that are made in a sweatshop in the Far East. I am sure he would agree that everyone is entitled to a living wage. Unfortunately, “best” business practice has little regard for this. Profits and shareholders come well before workers. How the stubbornness of a few people affected that change. But it took time.

Unfortunately, modern trading methods are a form of slavery, so the campaign continues.

D.C. Wilson

Burnside Cottage,
Strontian

The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent those of the University of Edinburgh. Letters may be edited for space reasons.

New centre puts Arab world studies on map

A new centre that seeks to enhance understanding of the Arabic-speaking world has been officially opened at the University.

The Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) will bring together world-class scholars from the universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester. It is the first initiative of its kind in the UK.

Spin-out sale helps to open doors for scholarship students

The University is to allocate a total of £2.6 million to create a number of new scholarships following the sale of its spin-out company MTEM.

The oil field technology firm was sold in June to the Norwegian group Petroleum Geo-Services for £138 million. Part of the University’s income from the sale will fund postgraduate research scholarships. Depending on how the scholarships are divided, this will mean that as many as 48 UK or EU students, or up to 31 students from outside the EU, will benefit from the scholarships.

Honorary degree withdrawn

The University has formally withdrawn the honorary degree awarded to Robert Mugabe in the early 1980s. It is the first time in the University’s history that an honorary degree has been withdrawn and the decision was taken after lengthy and careful deliberation.

After hearing evidence relating to the situation in Zimbabwe in the early 1980s – evidence that was not available to the University at the time the degree was conferred – the University Senate unanimously agreed to accept the recommendation, from a group of three senior professors established to consider the circumstances relating to Mr Mugabe’s award, that the degree should not have been conferred and should be withdrawn.

Mr Mugabe was told in writing and given a reasonable period to comment on the proposed withdrawal. The University did not receive a reply, and his degree was formally withdrawn on 16 July.

CASAW will provide a coordinated approach to teaching and research in the field of Arab World studies at both Masters and PhD level.

The establishment of the new centre builds on the international reputation of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester in Middle Eastern Studies. Arabic has been studied at Edinburgh for more than 250 years.

The University of Edinburgh attracts a growing body of public opinion that is concerned about the trading methods of wealthy nations and the detrimental effects on poor countries. I support a Fairtrade organisation where workers regularly report that they have no doubt their lifestyle is benefiting. I am realistic enough to see that it is not a perfect system, however, the only way to affect change is in the way we spend our money and to support organisations that lobby governments.

Support services were increasingly important, library automation was initiated and student accommodation expanded significantly. First steps were taken in fundraising, commercialisation of research became increasingly important, library automation was initiated and student accommodation expanded significantly. Pressures for increased efficiency resulted in changes to teaching, committee structures and the conduct of business. Support services were increasingly professionalised, and turnover rose from £32 million to £110 million. A highlight was the University’s celebration of its 400th anniversary, which Sir John led with vigour and enthusiasm. Sir John was very active on the celebration of its 400th anniversary, which Sir John led with vigour and enthusiasm.

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In this year of the Abolition of Slavery Act, it is worth remembering how the stubbornness of a few people affected that change. But it took time. Unfortunately, modern trading methods are a form of slavery, so the campaign continues.

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Burnside Cottage,
Strontian

The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent those of the University of Edinburgh. Letters may be edited for space reasons.

OBITUARY

Sir John Burnett

Former Principal and Vice-Chancellor

The University is deeply saddened to note the passing of Sir John Burnett, Principal and Vice-Chancellor from 1978 to 1987, in Oxford on 22 July.

Sir John will be remembered as an energetic, determined and fair leader, firmly rooted in the tradition of academic governance and deeply committed to academic excellence. During his principalship the University developed enormously. First steps were taken in fundraising, commercialisation of research became increasingly important, library automation was initiated and student accommodation expanded significantly. Pressures for increased efficiency resulted in changes to teaching, committee structures and the conduct of business. Support services were increasingly professionalised, and turnover rose from £32 million to £110 million. A highlight was the University’s celebration of its 400th anniversary, which Sir John led with vigour and enthusiasm. Sir John was very active on the celebration of its 400th anniversary, which Sir John led with vigour and enthusiasm.
a cure lies in COLLABORATION

TARA WOMERSLEY reports on the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, a centre of excellence that will strengthen University researchers’ understanding of motor neurone disease.

On his morning commute to work at investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort in London, Euan MacDonald realised something was not quite right when he started having difficulty changing the gears on his bicycle.

A loss of power in his thumb, coupled with a twitching in his left arm muscles, were the first telltale signs that he needed to seek medical advice.

In 2003 – just three years after finishing his law studies at the University of Edinburgh – Euan was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND), a debilitating and ultimately fatal condition for which treatment is limited and no cure exists.

Since then, Euan, now a staunch advocate of raising awareness of the disease, has returned to his home town of Edinburgh, where he lives with his wife, Liz, and two young sons, Alec and Finlay. Together with his father, Donald, also an Edinburgh law graduate, Euan has made a substantial donation to the University to create the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research.

The Centre, which will form part of a worldwide drive to research for a cure, will bring together experts from a wide range of disciplines with the aim of furthering understanding of the disease.

The generous seven-figure donation from Euan and his father, who is co-founder and Vice-Chairman of the City Inn hotel chain and Joint Chairman of Caledonian Brewery, has enabled the University to expand an already existing consortium of 20 scientists and physicians undertaking MND research.

The world-class Centre will combine expertise from areas such as regenerative medicine, stem cell research, neuroscience and molecular medicine.

Euan, who is actively involved with the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, says: “The University already has a strong research base with a lot of strong science in this area. The setting up of a dedicated centre will build on that. By bringing scientists together from different fields and with a clinical focus, we hope to improve patient care and work towards better treatments.

‘At present, nobody really knows what causes motor neurone disease although in a small minority of cases it can be inherited. It can affect anyone, no matter how fit and healthy they may seem. It is only by understanding the exact mechanisms of the disease that improvements in treatments can be made.’

At any one time, some 5,000 people in the UK are affected with MND. Most diagnoses are made in patients aged over 40, but Euan was told he had the condition when he was just 29.

MND affects the motor neurones (nerve cells) in the brain and spinal cord. As the motor neurones gradually die the muscles stop working, which can lead to paralysis and severe breathing difficulties. It is a progressive disease with a stark prognosis – life expectancy for most patients is estimated at two to five years.

The University is now recruiting a senior clinical fellow to coordinate its clinical and basic research for the Euan MacDonald Centre. The Centre will be based next to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where the University already has a solid research presence. It will also run alongside the University’s Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, which is set to benefit from a purpose-built facility to develop stem cell lines and where researchers are already working towards medical therapies for illnesses including MND, cancer, Parkinson’s and liver disease.

Last August, shortly after announcing the Euan MacDonald Centre, the University hosted a two-day symposium into the condition, which was attended by internationally renowned experts. The event featured presentations on the latest research carried out in Edinburgh, as well as talks from senior investigators from around the UK. Keynote lectures were delivered by three of the world’s leading experts on MND, Professor Don Cleveland of the University of California, San-Diego; Professor Nigel Leigh, of Kings College, London; and Professor Jeffrey Rothstein, Director of the Robert Packard Centre at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Professor Richard Ribchester, Chair of Cellular Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, coordinated the event and has played a major role in the setting up of the Euan MacDonald Centre. He comments: ‘While there may be no one answer to motor neurone disease, it is by working together on an international stage that we hope that the Euan MacDonald Centre will have a major impact on shining light on this pernicious illness. We all have a common goal and the Centre will place a strong emphasis on the sharing of research and building up research collaborations.’

The Euan MacDonald Centre is the only one of its kind in Scotland and staff will work closely with the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association. Researchers will also liaise with other centres of excellence such as the Packard Center in the US and the King’s Motor Neurone Disease Care and Research Centre in London. The donation from the MacDonaldds will also enable the University to establish key clinical and scientific training posts, with a view to the Centre becoming self-sufficient through funding, grants and donations within five years.

Donald MacDonald says: “There is just one drug currently licensed in the UK to treat motor neurone disease. But this drug, riluzole, has been shown to slow down the disease by only a few months.

“To target the disease, scientists need to understand exactly why motor neurones, which control voluntary muscle activity, such as speaking, walking and breathing, break down. Edinburgh has a worldwide reputation for cutting edge medical research and the setting up of a centre into motor neurone disease will further provide insight and knowledge into the condition, ultimately leading to improved treatments.”

For more information on the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, phone Chloe Kippen on +(0)131 650 2240 or email chloe.kippen@ed.ac.uk.

Motor neurone disease can affect anyone, no matter how fit and healthy they may seem. It is only by understanding the exact mechanisms of the disease that improvements in treatments can be made.”
Fighting for Freedom

Edinburgh graduate Emily Maw has established a reputation as a champion for human rights through her work fighting miscarriages of justice in the US. The 31-year-old lawyer recently returned to Edinburgh to collect her Alumnus of the Year 2007 award.

A young foreign lawyer fighting to free a black man wrongly convicted of raping and murdering a white woman in America's Deep South isn't always going to receive a warm welcome when she knocks on doors in search of the truth. But Emily Maw has remained steadfastly committed to ensuring innocent prisoners get their day in court. After studying law at Edinburgh and in the US, Emily worked as a voluntary capital defence investigator before taking up her current post as Director of Innocence Project New Orleans, a non-profit organisation which, in the past six years, has overturned 12 wrongful convictions for men sentenced to life without parole. On her return to Edinburgh, Emily took time out to discuss the challenges of her work with broadcaster and journalist, fellow alumna Sheena McDonald.

SM: Why did you decide to study at Edinburgh? 
EM: I came to Scotland to visit a friend in 1995 and though Edinburgh was the coolest place I’d ever seen. So I made a very last-minute application and I got in.

SM: And did Edinburgh turn out to be as ‘cool’ as you hoped? 
EM: It was cold! Much colder than I’d experienced [Emily is originally from England]. But I love Edinburgh and I’m so glad I came here.

SM: So what took you to the US? 
EM: I spent my third undergraduate year at Trinity College in Dublin, where I studied the death penalty in the American Deep South. I learned that there were lawyers in the US tackling human rights violations – not in any international criminal court, but in ordinary courtrooms, representing individuals threatened with the death penalty. I thought that was incredibly inspiring and I wanted to be one of those people. So I applied for an internship with the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center [LCAC]. I came back to complete my LLB at Edinburgh, and went back out as soon as I could.

SM: It’s strange because you think of the United States as... 
EM: ...the leader of the Free World, I know. And yet it has more of its citizens locked up than any other country. And a disproportionate number of them are black.

SM: So as an intern you were already committed to battling injustice... 
EM: Yes – although in hindsight somewhat blindly. I think I probably always felt strongly about people who are treated unfairly – that’s what drives me. I love Edinburgh and I’m so glad I came here. 

SM: As Director of Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO), your focus is now on life without parole cases – can you give me an example of what you do? 
EM: IPNO exists to prove that the criminal justice system makes mistakes – and to demonstrate how they can be prevented in the future. Travis Hayes and his friend Ryan Matthews were just 17 when they were convicted of murder after they were picked up driving a car that was superficially similar to another car used in a robbery that turned into murder. It was a huge miscarriage of justice and a shocking example of the abuse of racial profiling – both the boys are black – and in that part of the world, black men suffer systemic oppression and discrimination at the hands of the criminal justice system. Travis was sentenced to life without parole; Ryan was sentenced to death. When a good lawyer started re-investigating Ryan’s sentence, the real culprit was found, bragging about it in jail, and DNA evidence at the scene matched. So Ryan got out. But it took another two and a half years to get Travis out. The state said: ‘These are separate cases.’ No one cares about life without parole prisoners – strangely, we were lucky Ryan was on death row.

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SM: What’s the scale of that need? 
EM: It’s huge. IPNO is the only non-profit organisation in the Deep South serving approximately 60,000 prisoners who have no rights to a lawyer, and that includes almost 4,000 serving life without parole in Louisiana alone. Louisiana and Mississippi are poor states, so there’s not much public money and no effective system of providing lawyers with money. There are public defenders doing good work but they’re totally under-resourced – they can’t afford to hire an investigator. The state, of course, has enormous resources. Defence lawyers are trying to match the resources the state has, so volunteers have a vital job to do.

Injustice comes about if you simply don’t invest in lawyers for poor people, and they get convicted for crimes they didn’t do. And one of the causes of wrongful convictions is prosecutor and police misconduct – for instance, hiding evidence – because it’s good for their career to get more convictions.

SM: How do you change that? 
EM: Defence isn’t a political priority. Politicians get rewarded for being tough on crime, not paying for another defence lawyer. But I do think over the past 10 to 15 years there’s a slight recognition in the States that defence lawyers are woefully under-resourced, and there’s been some response to that. Even George Bush said something in his State of the Union address in 2004: ‘We must not have innocent people in prison.’ So public opinion is slowly changing, and partly because of the sheer number of exonerations. Juries are starting to demand more from the state than just one eyewitness – eyewitnesses can be wrong! Also, it’s not so politically outrageous now for people to say: ‘You get the justice you pay for.’

SM: And technology has made a difference? 
EM: There have been 209 DNA exonerations since 1989 and hundreds more non-DNA exonerations. DNA evidence gets more publicity because it’s unassailable.

SM: You’ve chosen a hard road! 
EM: There’s something very sad about working in the belly of the beast in the United States! But I really enjoy what I do. Every day, I think how unbelievably lucky I am.

SM: And here you are back in Edinburgh for a few days... was this city important to you? 
EM: Very much. Edinburgh gave me an amazing, profound sense of possibility, and I still love it.
The University of Edinburgh Campaign launches

October saw the launch of the University of Edinburgh Campaign, the largest fundraising campaign for higher education in Scotland. The Campaign aims to raise £350 million for more than 30 priority projects by 2011, and has already hit a £200 million milestone. Projects to benefit from the Campaign include undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, the Main Library’s redevelopment, regenerative medicine research and the new Vet School. The Campaign will also address the needs for refurbishment and restoration of Twist, the McEwan Hall and Old College Quad, as well as seek funds for a variety of chairs and fellowships.

The Scottish Executive announced funding of £24 million to enable the University to develop a Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRIM). The University will work in close collaboration with Scottish Enterprise in developing the £95 million centre to provide state-of-the-art research facilities, manufacturing capacity and commercialisation facilities. The University’s Principal, Professor Timothy O’Shaa, who presided over a special ceremony at the State Guest House in Beijing. The highlight of the event was the awarding of an honorary degree to University of Edinburgh alumni, Professor Zhong Nanshan, who identified the SARS virus. The award was made in the presence of Chinese graduates of the University who were invited to attend the ceremony. The ceremony was held 152 years after Huang Kuan, the first Chinese graduate of any European University, graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh. The Scottish Executive announced funding of £24 million to enable the University to develop a Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRIM). The University will work in close collaboration with Scottish Enterprise in developing the £95 million centre to provide state-of-the-art research facilities, manufacturing capacity and commercialisation facilities. The University’s Principal, Professor Timothy O’Shaa, who presided over a special ceremony at the State Guest House in Beijing. The highlight of the event was the awarding of an honorary degree to University of Edinburgh alumni, Professor Zhong Nanshan, who identified the SARS virus. The award was made in the presence of Chinese graduates of the University who were invited to attend the ceremony. The ceremony was held 152 years after Huang Kuan, the first Chinese graduate of any European University, graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh.
Following on from the success of previous events in London in 2004 and Paris in 2006, the University will be taking its meeting of the General Council to Washington DC in June 2008. ... programme of events will take place from Friday 13 June through to Sunday 15 June, to which all alumni are warmly welcome.

Events will include a business seminar on the theme of climate change, a reception at the British Embassy, tours of Georgetown University, a dinner in the Library of Congress, and a service at the National Cathedral of Washington.

Full details, together with a booking form, can be found on page 37 of this magazine, and on www.general-council.ed.ac.uk or www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to Washington in June.

University of Edinburgh Club of Toronto (EDUCT)

The 2008 Burns' Nightcap
Thursday 24 January 2008
6.30pm–9.30pm (the night before Burns)
Venue tbc
This year will see the event combine the traditional with some new initiatives for your entertainment – the haggis returns!
For details of this event and to RSVP please contact:
Chris Setchell
Tel: +1 416 544 0641
Email: chris.setchell@yahoo.ca

How the Brain Builds Models of the World
Sunday 2 March 2008
3pm–5pm
The Arts & Letters Club, 14 Elm Street, Toronto
Geoffrey Hinton (PhD Edinburgh, 1978), Professor of Computer Science, University of Toronto, will speak on artificial intelligence, which he studied at Edinburgh. He has devoted much of his career to research into how the brain works. In addition to his PhD from Edinburgh, and in recognition of his contributions to his field, he was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Edinburgh in 2001.
To RSVP to this event, contact:
Margaret Reid
Tel: +1 416 535 8501 (x7802)
Email: mmreid@yahoo.ca

EDUCT Annual Dinner
Friday 11 April 2008
6.30pm, The Great Hall
The Arts & Letters Club, 14 Elm Street, Toronto
Dr Charles Withers, Head of the Institute of Geography at Edinburgh University, which will celebrate its centenary in 2008, will be the after-dinner speaker at this event. He will introduce us to some of the more fascinating dimensions of the research being undertaken in this very eclectic field, such as that on climate change.
To RSVP to this event, please contact:
Simon Miles
Tel: +1 416 466 8793
Email: simon-miles@sympatico.ca

University of Edinburgh Alumni in Atlanta

Seventh annual Burns' Event
Sunday 3 February 2008
2pm–5pm
Burns Cottage, Alloway Place, Atlanta
Contact: hh_a@bellsouth.net

Scottish Highland Bands performance
Sunday 16 March 2008, 3pm
The Fox Theatre
Contact: hh_a@bellsouth.net

University of Edinburgh Swimming & Water Polo Club
120th Anniversary
Saturday 9 February 2008
Afternoon, from 1pm: swimming and water polo matches (current students versus alumni)
Evening: Ceilidh at Teviot
The event will be a very special opportunity to re-live your University days, and the current students would love to meet past members of the club.

For details of this event, please contact:
Judit Kilgallon
Email: s0675134@sms.ed.ac.uk
Tel: 07841 115653

University of Edinburgh Rugby Football Club
150th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 22 March 2008
Murrayfield
For details of this event, please contact:
Website: www.edinburghuniversityrfc.co.uk
Email: mattbennet@hotmail.com
Does 2008 mark a significant anniversary of your graduation from the University of Edinburgh?

Perhaps five, 10, 25 or even 50 years? Maybe your class is already planning a reunion – that’s great, and hopefully we already know about it, but if not please let us know. If you haven’t started organising your reunion yet, then don’t worry, it’s not too late. Development & Alumni can help you to contact your former classmates, find a venue and give other general advice and assistance. Simply visit our website at www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk or email beth.munro@ed.ac.uk to request a copy of our Guidelines on Organising a Reunion. We look forward to hearing from you.

Reunions in 2008

1948 MB ChB
Dr Douglas Bell
17–18 June 2008
Ten Hill Place, Royal College of Surgeons
Contact: bell.douglas@btinternet.com

1954–58 Chemistry
(50th anniversary)
Dilys Jeffrey-Smith
June or September 2008
Contact: d.jeffrey-smith@tiscali.co.uk

1958 MB ChB
Iain Davidson, Hugh Murray, William Cutting
5–6 October 2008 (tbc)
Dunkefield House Hotel

1958 Geography
John MacKay
19–21 September 2008
Edinburgh
Contact: 0131 226 2512

1961 MB ChB
Ilan Davison, Hugh Murray, William Cutting
6–9 September 2008
Ottawa, Canada

1963 MB ChB
Boyd More
12–14 September 2008
Peebles Hydro Hotel
Contact: boyd.mori@msn.com

1968 MB ChB
John Craig
22–24 August 2008
Peebles Hydro Hotel

1978 Social Science
Carol Davidson

1988 Agricultural Economics
Harry Elwin

1988 MB ChB
Grae Livingston
6–8 June 2008
Peebles Hydro Hotel

1988 German
Elisabeth Watts
21–22 June
Contact: elisabethwatts@yahoo.it

1993 Geography
Robert Thomson

1993 MB ChB
Simon Parke

1997 BSc Physics
Bernard Bowers
1 February 2008
Dinner and Ceilidh in Edinburgh
bbowers@musselburghgrammar.elcschool.org.uk

1998 Geography
Peter Imray

1998 BSc Anatomical Sciences
Gillian Speed
Date and venue tbc
Contact: craigandgilly@speed25.wanadoo.co.uk

1998 MB ChB
Dr Vineet Wadehra
Edinburgh University
Renaissance Singers
40th anniversary reunion
1 March 2008
Sarah Campbell
Concert at Canongate Church, followed by ceilidh supper
Contact: csarahcampbell@btinternet.com

50 years on and still going strong

The class of MB ChB 1957 held their 50th anniversary reunion at Peebles Hydro Hotel in September. A total of 85 graduates and their guests attended, and the group marked their special occasion by making a gift of £600 to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust.

Reunions in 2009

1956 MB ChB
Rose Clarke
18 September 2009
Raeburn Room, Old College (lunch)
Contact: Dr Rose Clarke
Flat 9, 2 Western Harbour Place, Edinburgh EH6 6NG

1959 MB ChB
Dr Alan Forsyth
7 September 2009
Edinburgh

Creative writing alumni to publish new book

A major volume of new writing, featuring a selection of the best work produced during the first five years of the MSc course in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh, has been launched.

Entitled V: New International Writing from Edinburgh, the book is edited by course organisers, Dilys Rose and Robert Alan Jamieson, and contains a blend of fiction, poetry and drama. It features work by 44 alumni, as well as 13 fine illustrations produced by students of Edinburgh College of Art.

Contributing writers represent 15 countries, with origins as broadly spread as Yellowknife, Windhoek, Moscow, Athens and Yokohama, as well as 15 of the American states. The book is available from University shops or via the Edinburgh Review website (www.englit.ed.ac.uk/edinburghreview).

Remembering moon landings and miniskirts

Moon landings, miniskirts, the common market, protest marches and student rector battles were remembered recently at the class of 1972 Agriculture reunion.

Celebrating 35 years since their graduation, 20 out of the 27 students of that year attended the reunion dinner on 13 October at Edinburgh’s Carlton Hotel and, give or take a few grey hairs, no-one had changed a bit since the photograph, below, was taken in 1969!

Fifty years on and still going strong

The graduates of MB ChB 1947, and their guests, celebrated their 60th anniversary of graduation in Edinburgh in July with a lunch at Old College. The event was hailed a great success by all who attended.

For all the latest University news, visit: www.ed.ac.uk/news

For details of alumni clubs or reunions, or to make contact with a reunion organiser, please contact Beth Munro, Development & Alumni, tel +44 (0)131 650 2240, email beth.munro@ed.ac.uk or visit www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk.
1940s
Mr Ian Callan BSc 1941 and Mrs Katharyn Callan BSc 1942. Recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. For the past 22 years they have opened their six-acre wildlife garden to the public, under the National Gardens Scheme.

Dr William Taylor MB ChB 1942. Published Poems of Wartime Years, a book of poems about his experiences as a wartime medic.

Dr Margaret Patterson MA 1948 and Dr John Patterson MB ChB 1951. Acted for several years as volunteer selectors for international development charity VSO, following on from their own VSO service in Pakistan in the 1990s.

Mrs Betty Boyd (née Campbell) MA Ord 1948. Recently published the book Portrait of a Country, which describes how her family was affected by national and international events in the years between 1897 (the birth of her father) and 2001 (the death of her mother).


1950s

Dr Thomas Sandeman MB ChB 1950, MD 1963. Retired, still enjoying his golf living on the edge of the best golf course in Australia. Busy writing unpublished masterpieces of little interest to Edinburgh folk. Looking forward to being 80 soon.

Captain Donald Watson MA 1950. After retiring from the Royal Navy, continued to teach and examine sailing for the Royal Yachting Association, only giving up five years ago to take up golf.

Mr Allan R M Murray BSc 1953. His main interest since retirement has been working on a new biography of George Heriot, 19th century financier and benefactor, whose family founded the school in 1698.

1960s
Mr Victor Loevenstein BComm 1960. Participates annually to a Management School lecture and subsequent seminar to the MBA class as well as the MSC’s in Management programme.

Dr Robert Bailey PhD 1962. Still active (part-time basis) in ministry and presbytery. With his wife, he participates in work with the Hungarian Reformed Church in parts of Hungary, the Ukraine and Romania.

1970s

Professor Sir James Fraser Stoddart BSc 1964, PhD 1966, DSc 1980. On 13 June 2007, received his 90th birthday, having been a member of the research group of Dai Rees and worked on camagines. Since then, he has been working on the Chemistry of Molecular Nanotechnology.

We are happy to forward correspondence to graduates for whom we hold current address details. Please contact Development & Alumni to take advantage of this service.

Stephen Keat JYA 1977. Has been a US diplomat with the State Department since October 1983. Is presently assigned to Washington, DC, and is about to start a new posting in the office that deals with intellectual property rights protection.

Mr David Brauner MPhil 1972. Currently helping Rabbi Dr Isaac Zalman Cohen put the finishing touches on his magnum opus Acts of the Mind in Jewish Ritual Law: An Insight into Rabbinic Psychology, in part inspired by his PhD thesis.

Mrs Anne Brocklesby (née Blake) BSc (SS) 1972. Works full-time at Wandsworth Care Alliance, a registered charity, developing outreach and project work.

Mr Richard Leiser-Banks BSc 1972. Having qualified as a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland in 1977, became a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in the US in 2006.

Dr David Noble PhD 1972. Helped to create a Minor in Writing and Publishing for the English Department at the University of Indianapolis. Teaches a cycle of courses on editing writing, new media.

Mrs Felicity Capel MA 1973. Enjoys travelling the world, and has just returned from a trip to Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos.

Professor David Swinburne PhD 1973. Founder of The Oreodont Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and holds the Emeritus Chair in Conservation Biology at the University of Kent, in addition to Visiting Chairs at the Universities of Michigan, Florence and Auckland.

Mr Niranjan Pande MPhil 1974. Left the UK to develop a programme in Engineering Assisted Surgery in New Zealand.

Dr Asher (Wallace) Wade BD 1974. Changed his name to Asher Woody, has been translated into two dozen languages. His latest book, Scene of the Crime, which describes how her family was impacted by the 9/11 attacks, was shortlisted for the Cricket Book of the Year 2007.

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Mr Niranjan Pande MPhil 1974. Left the UK to develop a programme in Engineering Assisted Surgery in New Zealand.
Dr Wendy Nakanishi (née Jones) PhD 1984 Has had a video interview posted on the internet by a Japanese academic researchers’ network. It can be accessed at Jukas TV through any search engine. The research field is Arts and Literature.

Mrs Amanda Lang LLB 1985 Working as a middle in Somerset and studying for a postgraduate qualification in Healthcare Ethics at Bristol University.

Miss Sarah E Murray MA 1985 Travelled the world to write Moveable Feasts: The Incredible Journeys of the Things We Eat (Atun Press).

Miss Anna Henly BSc 1988 Won a highly commended award in the Shell/BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007 competition.

Revd Dr Fergus King BD 1989 New Rector of the Anglican parish of the Good Shepherd Kotara South, with four sons. Completed a DTh in 2006 at the University of South Africa.

Mr Andrew Lowrie MSc 1989 His Edinburgh Literary Companion was recently published.

Dr Christopher Rawlinson PhD 1990 Currently a soldier who gained his PhD in 1990 specialising in NATO military logistics management. This led to serving in the Royal Army of Oman in charge of the Sultan’s Armed Forces School of Transport Officer followed by an appointment in the elite Sultan’s Special Forces. Many an adventure! Now retired to southern Spain.

Mrs Diana McCobb (née Holgate) BSc 1990 Has two children, Kelvin and Bronwyn.

Mr James Horton MB 1991 Married to Carolyn Miller Horton, with baby son Nickolas.

Mrs Duncan M MacLaren MTh 1992 Left post as Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis after the General Assembly in June 2007 to take up a post as Visiting Professor at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney. Will be lecturing and researching on subjects connected with theology and development studies.

Mrs Claudia Nehmouz MA 1992 Now in her fourth year as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Essex (teaching German full-time).

Mrs Sophie Steine MA 1992 Married and living near Oslo, Norway. Working in credit administration, after growing tired of the stressful deadlines involved in working as a translator.

Dr Willy Spat PhD 1992 EU Canoes Club members will be delighted to know that four-month-old Theo has already been on his first surf trip, and is now working on his rolls.

Mr D S M Nussbaum BEng 1998 Started a management/IT consultancy company AJ DeBonte Massaro into this world on March 9, 2007.

Mrs Nancy Beth Massaro MSc 1992 Welcomed daughter Sophy Angelina DeBonte Massaro into this world on March 9, 2007.

Miss Victoria Lissett BD 1993 Lives in Brisbane, Australia, with husband Nick Martin and baby daughter Ruth.

Dr Elisabeth Paterson MPhil 1993 Has worked for the past eight years as an obstetrician in a rural hospital in Pakistan.

Mr Jason M Hirsch MA 1994 First cookbook was published a couple years ago; now working on a second.

Mrs Evelyn Schultz (née Christensen) BSCom 1994 Busy married mother of one child, with three stepchildren. After living in Denmark for four years is moving back to now.

Mrs Kate Duroux MA 1995 Living and working in London. Her second daughter, Elise Angela, was born in April 2007.

Mrs Vivienne Ravenhill (née Pratt) BSc 1995 Married David Ravenhill in September 2006 and they are expecting their first child in January 2008.

Ms Emma Goldberg BSc 1996 Working at English Nature as a forestry and woodland officer.

Mrs Clair Thunes (née Spackman) BSc 1997 After doing an MSc in Animal Science at the University of California Davis, stayed and completed a PhD in Nutrition in 2005. Currently working as project manager at the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance (CADMS). Married to Owen.

Ms Lucy Cooker MSc (SS) 1998 Studying for a PhD at the University of Nottingham.

Mrs Jenny Kemp LLB 1998 Taking time out of work to run around after toddlers Rory and Elspeth.

Dr Scott Cameron BSc 1998 After completing a PhD in pharmacology at the University of Rochester, New York, and working at the Johns Hopkins Hospital as a staff clinical chemist and cardiovascular researcher in Baltimore, Maryland, is now studying medicine at the State University of New York (Upstate Medical University) in Syracuse, New York. Married Sarah in 2003, and daughter Katieh was born in 2006.


Rev Nolan Tobias MTh 1998 Currently Rector of All Saints Anglican Church in Bredasdorp, Africa.

Miss Jennifer Hibben MA 1999 Happily married to Gimin, with a little one on the way.
**Exhibitions**

**ALAN MICHAEL**
19 January–1 March 2008
A selection of new and existing works from this Glasgow-based painter. Born in Glasgow in 1967, Michael gained a BA in Fine Art from Duncan of Jordanstone College, Dundee, in 1996 and an MA (Fine Art) from Glasgow School of Art in 1998.

**ENRICO DAVID**
22 March–10 May 2008
The first major public exhibition by this Glasgow-based painter. Born in Glasgow in 1967, Michael gained a BA in Fine Art from Duncan of Jordanstone College, Dundee, in 1996 and an MA (Fine Art) from Glasgow School of Art in 1998.

The General Council continues to take a very proactive interest in University affairs and receives regular updates on media coverage from the Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs. Coverage is very largely positive, and we offer our congratulations to those contributing to this. Occasionally, less positive issues arise, and in these cases our approach is to offer assistance, support and advice. We see this as a key role for our active General Council. A current example of this is the excellent news that our University is now rated in the top 25 in the world in a recent Times Higher Education Supplement analysis. At much the same time, the 2006 National Student Survey of student satisfaction indicated that we appeared to be doing less well in this respect than a number of comparator universities. The Secretary and I have very recently had our annual meeting with the Edinburgh University Students’ Association (EUSA) President and Vice-Presidents, and our Academic Standing Committee will discuss this matter in more detail and report back to you.

As you will see from the details in the Annex to the Billet, our Standing Committees remain very active on a number of issues, and I am grateful to the Officers, Conveners and Members for their diligence, and also for their input to many events associated with the University, such as graduations, student receptions, services, and the very successful Doors Open Day in September. Our most recent Statutory meeting in June 2007 was an excellent event, held in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Easter Bush, when we had an opportunity to hear from Professor Elaine Watson, the Head of School, and to see at first hand some of the outstanding work being undertaken within the School.

Looking ahead, 2008 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding by Statute in 1858 of the General Councils of the Ancient Scottish Universities (Abdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews). Discussions on how best to mark this occasion are under way. Of course, a number of events are already planned for 2008.

Following the success of our well attended Festival Reception and private viewing in the Talbot Rice Gallery last August, we plan to hold a similar event in August 2008, and details will be published in the summer 2008 issue of the University Magazine. Following the success of our well attended Festival Reception and private viewing in the Talbot Rice Gallery last August, we plan to hold a similar event in August 2008, and details will be published in the summer 2008 issue of the University Magazine.

The University of Edinburgh's Talbot Rice Gallery

The University of Edinburgh Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh EH8 9YL
T: 0131 650 2210
E: subscribe.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk
W: www.trg.ed.ac.uk
Opening hours
Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm, admission to all spaces is free.

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 wellbeing. For more information on the work of the General Council, visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.
The Convener reported that the issue to which the Motion related had evolved quickly since the last meeting in February. The Senate had appointed a group.

Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee, presented his report on the activities of the Business Committee and its Standing Committees since the last meeting.

The Chairman invited the Convener to present the Motion, the report of the Business Committee on postgraduate teaching and training, and the Motion to the Business Committee for more detailed consideration, and would be reported on under item 4 of the Agenda.

The full part in representing the General Council at pre-graduation receptions and graduations, as well as at other University and City events. A very successful private viewing of the Festival Exhibition in the Talbot Rice Gallery, followed by a Reception in the Georgian Gallery, had been held for members and guests on 16 August.

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 9 February 2008, when the after-Lunch speaker would be Ms Sally Magnusson, journalist and broadcaster. The following meeting would be held in Washington DC, USA, on Saturday 14 June 2008. Full details of the meeting, and the associated weekend events, would be published in the winter 2008 issue of Edith, and would also be available on the General Council website.

The Convener thanked Business Committee colleagues, the Standing Committee Conveners, and fellow officers, Vice-Convener Mr Neil Hynd, and Secretary of Council Dr Ann Matheson, for their commitment. The Convener thanked Mrs Gibson on behalf of General Council for her sterling work over the years, and wished her well. He also welcomed Mrs Mary Scott, the newly appointed Assistant to the Secretary.

The College's research was very well rated, teaching and training was now a very major area of College development, and there were now over 1,100 students registered in the Colleges. The College was research-led, teaching undergraduates was also very important, and external perceptions backed this up. In the Guardian the College was third in the world. The College had also been recently awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for the University of Edinburgh Magazine Online. Professor Savill noted that postgraduate teaching and training was now a very major area of College development, and there were now over 1,100 students registered for higher degrees. Increasingly, the College was running postgraduate teaching, especially with continuous professional development in mind, and this year it had set up the University's first online distance learning unit. In alliance with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, an online Masters in Surgical Sciences was to be introduced that might well become the worldwide proving ground for those who wanted to get into surgical training programmes.

The College’s research was very well rated, and nearly 2,000 staff were currently engaged on research. In terms of Medical Research Council awards, Edinburgh had tied second with Cambridge for new awards.
in 2005, and the College’s research awards had grown very rapidly from around £30 million to a record £53 million the previous year. Professor Savill noted that the College had swept away traditional departments in research and now concentrated on interdisciplinarity, bringing surgeons, obstetricians, physicians, molecular biologists and radiologists together around themes such as reproduction, cancer or infectious disease. The Queen’s Medical Research Institute had opened two years ago, and a new collaboration with the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK would form an Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine at the Western General Hospital with over 500 researchers. The Queen’s Medical Research Institute at Little France had been totally funded from external sources, and was operating very successfully since its opening two years ago.

Edinburgh Neuroscience brought together a number of very exciting initiatives. It was increasingly important to recognise that by contrast with clinical medical schools in England, the four clinical medical schools in Scotland had realised that schools must work together to achieve the greatest impact in research and the most rapid transition into patient benefit. The MIB in Scotland had remarkable power in information technology, and it had also solved the key problem of giving patients a unique identifier. This power could be harnessed for clinical research projects, particularly genetics projects such as Generation Scotland, which was a £6 million bid to improve brain-imaging studies, and this had led to a £7 million initiative called SINAPSE (Scottish Imaging Network – A Platform for Scientific Excellence), which would deliver a single clinical imaging system for brain imaging across Scotland. Another major development was the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, led by Professor Ian Wilmut, for which major commitments of funding from key Scottish agencies had been obtained. There was also a new Centre for Infectious Diseases being planned which would be sited at The King’s Buildings, in order to bring together experts in immunology, infection and evolution because infectious diseases evolution was both the problem and the solution.

A very new piece of information was that within the last month, Scottish Enterprise had attracted the US world leading developer in biotechnology, Alexandria, to Scotland. Professor Savill concluded his presentation by emphasising that if credit was due, it was due to colleagues across the College, across the University.

PAPER B

Motion

In line with Ordinance No. 198, amended by Ordinance No. 205, the ‘Constitutional Arrangements for the working of the University of Edinburgh General Council and its Business Committee’ (latest version, March 2005) make provision for Regulations covering the conduct of General Council Elections. The Business Committee on the advice of the Constitutional Standing Committee has agreed to recommend to the General Council that the above-mentioned proposed Regulations as published on the General Council website to govern the conduct of General Council Elections for General Council Assessors to the University Court and members of the Business Committee be approved. The relevant procedures so far as they relate to General Council Assessors and members of the Business Committee are respectively detailed in Parts I and II of these Regulations; and Part III details procedures that apply to both.

Proposed by: The Convener of the Business Committee
Seconded by: The Vice-Convener of the Business Committee

The full text of the proposed Regulations is available on the General Council website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/DraftRegulations/October2007.htm. Printed copies will be available on request from the General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, at Reception in Charles Stewart House and Old College, and copies will be available at the Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 9 February 2008.

Postal Election

Candidates for Postal Election of Members of the Business Committee

The following nominations have been received for the election of five members of the Business Committee to serve until 31 July 2012.

Ms Doreen Davidson
BA 1977
Proposed by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989
Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BSc 1969

Mr Jordan Robert Jude Dias
MA (Hons) 2007
Proposed by Mr Steven John Hill, BSc 2000
Seconded by Ms Anna Davidson, MA (Hons) 2007

Ms Moira Elizabeth Helen Gibson
Committee between 2002–2006, and would like to use this experience to further your interests and views. As a writer and journalist, and former secretary of EUSA, I especially hope to help in fundraising. Any questions or comments to: michrisconway@yahoo.co.uk.

Mr Bruce Landale Keith Rae
LLB 1967
Proposed by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BSc 1969
Seconded by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989

Mr Mary Myles McGregor
MA 1982 PGCE
Proposed by Mr James Murray, BSc 1962, MS CEng MIEEE MRT
Seconded by Dr Ronald David Lessels Mackie, BSc 1959, PhD 1969

Career: Bookkeeper; Chief Accountant (six companies turnover £25 million) in Zambia and UK. Education Officer – Kaduna, Nigeria. Teacher – UK. Broad palette of skills – economics/accountant/educator. Interested in funding; academic excellence; value for money; securing merited share of the academic pie by providing all round quality of experience and knowing competition.

Ms Moira Elizabeth Helen Gibson
Committee between 2002–2006, and would like to use this experience to further your interests and views. As a writer and journalist, and former secretary of EUSA, I especially hope to help in fundraising. Any questions or comments to: michrisconway@yahoo.co.uk.

Mr Jordan Robert Jude Dias
MA (Hons) 2007
Proposed by Mr Steven John Hill, BSc 2000
Seconded by Ms Anna Davidson, MA (Hons) 2007

As a recent graduate, I am able to bring a fresh and innovative business based perspective to the work of the Business Committee. I have been involved in the work of the University previously, and feel I am well placed to represent the views of Graduates in the Committee’s efforts.

Ms Moira Elizabeth Helen Gibson
MA (Hons) 1975
Proposed by Professor Leonard Raymond Land (Ma) (Hons) 1973
Seconded by Ms Adeline Christy, LLB (Hons) 1975

I have held senior positions in advertising, marketing and tourism, working across the UK, Europe and the USA. I have wide experience of the Scottish political scene and, before starting my PR consultancy, was the Scottish Arts Council’s Head of External Relations. I would be honoured to serve the University.
The February 2008 General Council Lunch

Following the Half-Yearly Meeting, members of the General Council, other alumni, partners, family and friends are cordially invited to the General Council Lunch on Saturday 9 February 2008 in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College. Ms Sally Magnusson, journalist and broadcaster, will give the after-Lunch address.

If you would like to attend the next General Council Lunch, please complete and return the form on page 37 of this magazine no later than Monday 28 January 2008.

Tickets at £16 include pre-lunch wine reception and a buffet lunch in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available for purchase at the meal.

150th Anniversary of the General Council in 2008

The year 2008 will be the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the General Councils of the four Ancient Universities of Scotland. It is proposed to present the University with a permanent token to mark this milestone for the General Council of the University of Edinburgh by commissioning a sculpture to be placed in one of the University’s new buildings. Further information and progress with the commission will be made available regularly on the General Council website, and in future issues of the 'Noten' within Edit.

Members of the General Council are warmly invited to contribute to the Fund to mark the long association between the Council and the University. Please send your contribution to:

General Council 150th Anniversary Fund
The General Council Office
The University of Edinburgh
Charles Stewart House
9-16 Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1HT

Cheques should be made payable to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust. Contributions to the Fund will be accepted until 30 June 2008.

Half-Yearly Meeting at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine, Easter Bush on Saturday 16 June 2007

Before the General Council Lunch, left to right: Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; Professor John Savill, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine; Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies; Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council; and Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee.

Officers

Chairman: His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT 2009
Secretary: Ann Matheson, OBE, MA, Dip. Scottish Studies, MLIr, PhD, Hon DLitt 2009
Registrar: Melvyn D Cornish, BSc, PGCE, University Secretary ex-officio 2009

General Council Assessors on the University Court:
A Margaret Tait, BSc 2009
Douglas A Connell, LLB 2010
Ann M Smyth, BSc, PhD, MPhil 2010

Business Committee:
Vice-Convener: Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch 2008

Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Frances D Dow, MA, DPhil 2008
Convener of Standing Committee on Finance and Services: J Dwan Jeffrey, BSc, CA 2009
Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Marjorie D Appleton, BArch (Hons), RIBA, FRIAS 2009
Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: Ralph V Parkinson, MA Geography (Hons) 2011

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

Chancellor’s Assessor:
The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, MA, LLB, QC, FRSE, FRIAS ex-officio 2008

P
Charles F Y Lawson, BSc, CA, FSI 2008
C
Patricia J Spark, MA 2008
P
Diana C F Webster, MA, Dip Lib, MCUP 2008
A
Ian Wetherspoon, MA, MBA, PhD, FSA (Stat), MCM 2008
P
Alan D G Brown, MB ChB, FRCOG, FRCS Ed 2009
C
Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartiS 2009
A
Charles J Smailison, MB ChB, FRCP, FFPHM 2009
C
Francis R M Brewis, MA 2009
A
Helen M Campbell, MA, BA, MNCHM, RSHom, BSc Open 2010
F
T Finlay Marshall, MA, FFA 2010
F
Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD 2010
F
James Murray, BSc, MS, MEE, MIHT 2010
C
Gordon D Cairns, LLB 2010
A
John D Simpson, BSc, PhD 2011
C
Frank I Stewart, MB ChB 2011
F
Hilary A Vandore, MA 2011

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary Scott
June 2008 General Council Meeting, and Alumni Events, in Washington DC, USA

The General Council will hold its June 2008 Meeting in its 150th anniversary year in Georgetown University, Washington DC, on Saturday 14 June 2008. A full programme of alumni events and activities has been planned in association with the University’s Development & Alumni for the weekend of 13 to 15 June 2008, including opportunities for socialising, networking, discussion and debate, with privileged access to some of the most prestigious venues the city has to offer. For those who wish to explore more of the cultural and architectural gems of Washington at their leisure, a wide range of guided and self-guided tours of interest will also be available. The programme of events is set out here, and is also available on the General Council (www.general-council.ed.ac.uk) and Development & Alumni (www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk) websites. Tickets for events may be ordered on the request form opposite, or online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm.

Washington DC Weekend
Programme of Events

Friday 13 June 2008
Morning Optional tours of Capitol Hill and other Washington landmarks
Tour of the White House (20 only)
2pm–5pm Business Seminar: ‘Climate Change’ The British Embassy 3108 Massachusetts Avenue 6pm–8pm Reception The British Embassy Saturday 14 June 2008 9.30am Coffee South Lobby, Georgetown University Conference Center 10am–noon General Council Half-Yearly Meeting Grand Ballroom 12.15pm–12.45pm Wine Reception hosted by the President of Georgetown University Copley Formal Lounge 12.45pm–2.45pm General Council Lunch Copley Formal Lounge Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon. Lord Gill MA LLB PhD FRSE FRSM, Lord Justice Clerk 3pm–5pm Optional tours of Georgetown University Campus, guided by Georgetown University students Free time 7pm Champagne Reception and Gala Dinner Jefferson Building, Library of Congress With a specially arranged exhibition from the collections of Library of Congress Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Foreign Secretary 1995–97 Sunday 15 June 2008 10.50am Coffee 11.15am–11.45am Morning Service Free time 2pm Optional tours of Washington DC Guided visit to Holocaust Museum led by Professor Donald Bloxham, School of History, University of Edinburgh 3pm–5pm Optional tours of Georgetown University Campus, guided by Georgetown University students Free time 7pm All General Council members are most warmly invited to come to Washington for the General Council’s first visit to North America, and to bring their friends to the associated weekend events.

The June 2008 General Council Lunch
The General Council is delighted to welcome the Rt Hon. Lord Gill as the Guest Speaker at the Washington DC Lunch on Saturday 14 June 2008. Lord Gill was appointed Lord Justice Clerk and President of the Court of Session in 1994. He was Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission from 1994 to 2001. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

The February 2008 General Council Lunch
Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on Saturday 9 February 2008, 12.30pm for 1pm.
Please send me _____ tickets for the General Council Lunch.
A cheque for £ is enclosed, payable to The University of Edinburgh.

Name

Address

Name(s) of guest(s)

Please complete and return this form to Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT

Closing date for applications: Monday 28 January 2008

June 2008 General Council Meeting, Lunch and Alumni Events in Washington DC, USA

The June 2008 General Council Meeting, Lunch and Alumni Events
Washington DC: Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June 2008

Name

Address

Tel. No Email

(a) I/We wish to attend the Half-Yearly Meeting (b) I/We would like to buy the following ticket/s

No. of Tickets Total Cost

White House tour (no charge) 0 £0

‘Climate Change’ Business Seminar (£60 per person, including Reception) 0 £0

Reception (no charge) 0 £0

General Council Lunch (£30 per person) 0 £0

Georgetown University Campus tour (no charge) 0 £0

Gala Dinner (£75 per person) 0 £0

Holocaust Museum (no charge) 0 £0

Total

(c) Guest Names Event(s) Attending Any Dietary Requirements

(d) Ordering Tickets
You will find an order form at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm, which you can complete online using credit card facilities. Conversion at prevailing rates.
Or: You may enclose your cheque for £______ (in total) payable to the University of Edinburgh.

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

Closing date for applications: 15 May 2008
The Club with an International Dimension

Royal Over-Seas League

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

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

Benefits of membership include economical central London pricing*, varied events programmes, inter-club younger members group, quarterly journal, discounts on certain cruises and tours, in-house art exhibitions and concerts, evening speakers and short term access to over 90 other clubs around the world in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, Gibraltar, Spain, USA and elsewhere.

Specially discounted joining fees for Edinburgh University alumni range from £27 (resident overseas) to £62 (resident within 50 miles of Charing Cross, London). Discounted 2008 subscriptions range from £78 to £245. The joining fee is waived for those aged 17-25.

For further information please contact the Membership Department, remembering to quote EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James’s Street, London SW1A 1LR
Tel: 020 7408 0214 Fax: 020 7409 6738
(Enquiries: 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday - exts 214 and 216)
Website: www.rosl.org.uk E-mail: info@rosl.org.uk