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www.edit.ed.ac.uk
**RESTORED MCEWAN HALL WILL FULFIL ORIGINAL VISION FOR UNIVERSITY AND CITY**

The iconic McEwan Hall, scene of graduations, exams and other unforgettable events for more than a century, is undergoing major redevelopment work.

The hall, built between 1888 and 1897 through the largest single private donation in the University’s history, from the brewer Sir William McEwan, has long been in need of repair, and while undertaking those works the University is restoring the building to its original status as a major asset for both the University and the city of Edinburgh.

The first stages of work during 2015 included the restoration of external stonework, improvements to the building’s foundations and the remedying of damp problems at ground level. What was previously basement will be opened up to create a new entrance hall and visitor spaces, which will have a modern glazed entrance pavilion within a new circular amphitheatre. A new corner stairwell will provide access to all levels for the first time.

“This sensitive restoration project will recapture the building’s former glory to create an incredible venue at the heart of the University’s estate,” says Gary Jebs, Director of Estates. “Continued investment in our estate is vital to provide outstanding facilities for students, staff and the wider community.”

The redevelopment addresses longstanding issues that have left the building underutilised, including limited accessibility. New ventilation and heating systems are being installed to improve both efficiency and heating systems are being installed, with the opportunity for supporters to have their names permanently recognised in the fabric of the building.

More information edin.ac/fundraising-projects

SEE ALSO LANDMARK PAGE 10

**BOLLYWOOD STAR GETS NEW COLLEGE DANCING**

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan got a packed New College Assembly Hall audience on its feet when he broke into his famous Lungi Dance after giving a public lecture in October.

Khan – known as the ‘king of Bollywood’ – received an honorary doctorate in recognition of his humanitarianism and global reach as an actor. His charitable work has included bringing solar power to rural villages and creating a children’s hospital ward. After speaking of the strong links between the University and India, he performed the dance from his film Chennai Express, to the delight of the audience, which included many South Asian students.

Ceremony, speech and dance videos edin.ac/dr-ark

SEE ALSO MUTED ELEGANCE PAGES 10-21

**ST CECILIA’S HALL REVITALISED FOR GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS**

One of the University’s hidden treasures, St Cecilia’s Hall, is being reinvigorated to reflect its status as Scotland’s oldest purpose-built concert venue and home to a globally important collection of historical musical instruments.

The hall will re-open in autumn 2016 with a programme of concerts and other events.

Edinburgh University Sports Union is marking its 150th anniversary in 2016 with a series of celebrations, including an alumni weekend.

Many of the University’s sports clubs – of which there are 64 – will host alumni events over 5–6 March, and there will be a ball at Teviot House.

In 2014/15 the University gained its best ever ranking among the UK’s higher education institutions, coming third out of nearly 200, and scoring points across 87 sports.

Sporting staff and students are looking forward to the 2016 Olympic Games when several alumni and students are in contention for medals, including Katherine Grainger, Colum Tait, Come Scott, Andy Burns, Sarah Aldington and Edilsh Child.

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

More information edin.ac/start-up-prizes

**150 YEARS OF SPORTING SUCCESS**

The University has created a record number of spin-outs and start-ups in the latest academic year.

Students and staff created 44 start-ups and three spin-outs, bringing the total number of companies formed in the past five years to 184.

“Edinburgh is emerging as the largest technology hub outside London, and at the heart of that phenomenon is the University and its enterprise scene,” says Grant Wheeler, Head of Company Formation at Edinburgh Research and Innovation.

An independent study recently found that the University of Edinburgh contributes £3.3 billion to the UK economy each year. The report, by Biggar Economics, takes account of factors including the effect of degrees on alumni.

More information edin.ac/start-up-prizes

**SPIN-OUTS RECORD**
**TAKE A BIG LEAP FOR A GOOD CAUSE**

If a leap year can be considered to provide a bonus day, how to put it to good use? The University’s Big Leap campaign encourages students, staff and alumni to do something extraordinary with their extra 24 hours, by raising money for good causes while also having fun.

The University has organised mass-participation events, including a fire walk, a record-attempt bake sale, concerts and dances, but participants are also encouraged to organise their own events in support of the Big Leap appeal.

As a charity, the University is putting fundraising for University causes includes advice, online promotion and a fundraising pack, including sponsor forms. Stories of those dedicating their time to the Big Leap will be shared in a supporters’ section of the Big Leap web pages.

"If people can encourage friends and family to sponsor them and do something unique and fun, it can raise awareness and add up to a lot of money," says Mr Cox. "It really will help people all around the world."

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/big-leap

SEE ALSO: THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION PAGES 12-15

**CANADA’S FIRST SCIENCE MINISTER**

Kirsty Duncan (PhD Geography 1993) has been appointed Canada’s first Minister of Science in the new government elected in November.

Dr Duncan won a third term as Liberal MP for Etobicoke North, Toronto, in the general election, and was appointed to the new cabinet post by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

After her Edinburgh PhD, Dr Duncan taught at universities in Canada, and was lead author for North America on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Dr Duncan featured in Edinburgh Experience in the winter 2013/14 edition of Edit, saying: "I loved my time at Edinburgh, my first class professors, and my friends, many of whom I am still in touch with today."

Online profile at edin.ac/kirsty-duncan

**EDINBURGH AT CORE OF DATA SCIENCE GROUP**

Edinburgh is one of five universities selected to form the Alan Turing Institute that aims to keep the UK at the forefront of data science.

The Institute, which was officially launched in November, is led by Edinburgh alumni and former lecturer Professor Andrew Blake (PhD Artificial Intelligence 1984). It is a joint venture between the universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford and Warwick, University College London and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Among the first work of the Institute is a collaboration between computer maker Gray and the EPSRC using ARCHER, the UK’s largest research supercomputer, which is housed at the University of Edinburgh.

Alan Turing Institute: turing.ac.uk

**CLOONEY POPS IN FOR A SANDWICH**

A small Edinburgh café that helps homeless people had a superstar moment one lunchtime in November when George Clooney dropped in. Following an invitation from its co-founder, Josh Littlejohn (MA Economics and Politics 2009), the café gives all its profits to homeless people, and operates a “suspended” coffee system, where customers can pay for a hot drink or food for a homeless person. A quarter of the workforce are formerly homeless.

Hundreds of people gathered at the café in Rose Street, Edinburgh, to see the film star, who is also co-founder of the humanitarian charity Not on Our Watch. Clooney later spoke at the Scottish Business Awards in Edinburgh, which were also founded by Mr Littlejohn.

**PRINTING LOW-COST PROSTHETICS**

A company founded by Paul Fotheringham (BSc Computer Science and Management Science 2000) is using 3D printing to make low-cost bespoke prosthetic limbs in the developing world.

1D Life Prints uses portable scanners to record the shape of an amputee’s stump, and manufactures perfectly fitting, simple artificial limbs using 3D printing. A prosthetic hand, which can grip using a bicycle brake-cable mechanism, operated by moving the opposite shoulder, can be produced for $50.

1D Life Prints has worked with amputees in Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, South Sudan and Myanmar. It has fitted more than 45 prosthetics. The company also makes anatomical medical models in the UK.

**ALUMNI DOMINATE GAELIC AWARDS**

Edinburgh alumni have taken several prizes in Scotland’s second Gaelic Awards, which promote Gaelic culture.

Dr John Mackintosh (MA 1993, PhD 1997) took the Best Contribution Award. Dr Mackintosh, a retired researcher and lecturer at the University, is an internationally renowned collector of songs and stories in the Gaelic language and tradition.

Edit Warwick (MSc Celtic and Scottish Studies 2015) and Jake King (MA 1997, PhD 2018), were joint winners of the Community, Heritage & Tourism Award. Liam Crouse (MA Celtic & Archaeology 2002) won the International Award, and Caitlin Smith (MA Scottish Ethnology & Celtic 2008) won the Learner Award. The University implemented its Gaelic Language Plan in 2013.
Thea Musgrave is one of the world’s foremost modern composers. Born and raised in Edinburgh, now living in the US, she tells Anastasia Mills Healy about her long and celebrated career, composition with the help of dreams, and ushering at the first Edinburgh Festival.

**Q** What are your fondest memories about your time as an Edinburgh student?

**A** The first Edinburgh Festival, which was in 1947! Students at the University were allowed to be ushers at the chamber music concerts. I had very little money in those days, and I got in to hear a lot of wonderful recitals.

The other thing that I’m very grateful for is that when I had done my degree I thought it would be really wonderful to go to Paris to study with Nadia Boulanger, who was the famous teacher in those days. Mary Grierson wrote to Clifford Curzon who was a well-known pianist and put me in touch. So it was through her that I got to Paris. I had a scholarship through the University.

**Q** Could you characterise your experience with Boulanger — how it affected your career?

**A** It was absolutely vital. In a way it was complementary to what I learned from Tovey’s teachings. I learned from Tovey what we call long-term harmonic planning — planning of a tonality through a whole work — and all his wonderful analyses of works.

Boulanger was a details person. Absolutely everything had to be perfect. One wonderful thing she said was, when a really good jeweller makes a really beautiful ring of course it looks beautiful on top, and if you turn it over and look underneath it’s also beautiful. In other words, things had to be perfectly crafted.

**Q** When you have an inspiration, how do you work?

**A** You have to have a start, which is often very sudden. For example, I got a commission from the BBC to write something for the Proms. I said to Peter [husband Peter Mark, violist and opera conductor]: “I can do this piece if you give me a title.” He thought for 10 seconds and said “Loch Ness.” I said: “That’s it, now I can write the piece.”

Right away I had a vision of seeing Loch Ness — the mist on it and then a monster. What’s going to enact the monster? The tuba. I had the piece as a thematic outline right off. There’s a sort of energy that gets you going, but not necessarily programmatic like that.

In the mid 1960s one night I had a dream. While I was conducting, a player suddenly stood up and kind of defied me. Then a couple of players stood up. I was taken aback and unnerved. That night I was out with some friends and told them about the dream. We all had a good laugh and I thought that was the end of it. The next morning in the mail I got a commission from Birmingham to write an orchestra piece and my dream became that piece, Concerto for Orchestra.

**Q** How did Mary, Queen of Scots come about?

**A** I’m the only person who could possibly write that because I’m a woman, I studied in France and I am Scottish!

Actually, it happened because Peter Hemmings, who was head of Scottish Opera at that time, commissioned several composers to write an opera. There’s a famous opera called Meiss Stuarda, which is written about Mary’s later life. I wanted to write about when she was in Edinburgh, when she first arrived back from France as a widow of the Dauphin.

**Q** Let’s talk about February 2014 — the BBC’s Total Immersion day devoted to your work. That was an incredible experience. There was a wonderful conductor I had not met, Martyn Brabbins. They did the Horn Concerto, which was written for a wonderful horn player called Barry Tuckwell.

There’s a soloist who stands beside the conductor and doesn’t move but the horns from the orchestra move halfway through the piece and go out into the hall. When we did the performance at the Proms, which I conducted with Barry playing, in the rehearsal he disappeared suddenly. When he came back a little out of breath I said, “Oh my goodness, Barry are you okay?” And he said, “Yes, I was just checking that there’s time for the horn players in the Albert Hall to cover these big distances in the time that’s allotted in the music.”

**Q** I know you can’t talk about what you might be working on now, but...

When I’m working on something I never talk to anybody about it except the people that it’s for because it takes away the freshness and the energy. Once it’s finished I bore everybody silly.

I had two very exciting premieres in 2015. One was called Voices of Our Ancestors, inspired by poetry from several thousand years ago. That was done in July in London at St Bride’s, a wonderful church. The other one was for the Science Museum in London – they commissioned composers to create music for rooms that would be recorded and put on earphones. I wrote a piece called Power Play. I had the big opening room with big wheels and big machinery. That premiered in October.

Anastasia Mills Healy (Junior Year Abroad 1989) is a writer, editor and communications professional living in the greater New York City area. She spent a year studying English and Scottish Literature at Edinburgh when a student at Tulane University, New Orleans.

**Q** I learned from Tovey what we call long-term harmonic planning — planning of a tonality through a whole work.  

**A** I think taught harmony. It was really wonderful. The music department was right by the medical school. I actually started in the medical school – I thought I was going to do medicine but music was my love so I went to music.

I lived in Edinburgh, so I went to the University. But it’d also been taking piano lessons from one of the professors there. One of the most famous teachers at Edinburgh in those days was a man called Donald Francis Tovey, who I never met because he died, but the person I took piano lessons from was his assistant so I felt that I knew him through her. He is one of my gods. I read absolutely everything he ever wrote.

There was a very small but very good faculty. Classes were usually three or four people so we had very individual attention. I studied counterpoint with Hans Gal who was not such a well-known composer but he was somebody that Tovey really liked. I also learned from Boulanger, who was a very individual attention. I studied with Nadia Boulanger, who was a very well-known pianist and put me in touch. So it was through her that I got to Paris. I had a scholarship through the University.

**Q** Thea, what do you think of Loch Ness — the mist on it and then a monster? The tuba. I had the piece as a thematic outline right off. There’s a sort of energy that gets you going, but not necessarily programmatic like that.

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Anastasia Mills Healy (Junior Year Abroad 1989) is a writer, editor and communications professional living in the greater New York City area. She spent a year studying English and Scottish Literature at Edinburgh when a student at Tulane University, New Orleans.
Xenia Papastavrou and Demetrios Iatrides have very different academic and professional backgrounds, but one important thing in common: the two Edinburgh alumni have been making a difference in their home country, Greece, as it continues to deal with its political and economic crisis.

Xenia, the founder of the innovative non-profit group Boroume, is helping provide meals to thousands of Greeks suffering from food insecurity. Demetrios, who has spent much of his career in government and other public sector roles, has helped a new generation of innovative Greek farmers thrive against the odds, in a barren economic environment.

Xenia founded Boroume, which means “We can” in Greek, in 2011 after working for more than 12 years as a senior editor at a large media group. Boroume is a non-profit organisation committed to reducing food waste, by acting as a bridge between those who have food to spare and those who need it.

“We save and donate food that would otherwise end up in the garbage, and we do it without storing, transporting or delivering it,” Xenia explains. “We operate as a virtual food bank and this ensures that we can have maximum impact with the lowest operating cost. For every euro we get from donations, we provide 10 meals.”

Boroume had a modest start, initially connecting two bakeries with one soup kitchen. But as the crisis deepened, its web-based network of donors and recipients grew fast. Boroume is now offering more than 11,000 meals a day across the country. Beneficiaries include more than 1,000 welfare organisations and municipal services.

“Boroume has saved and donated more than five million meals since it began,” Xenia says.

Xenia has hit hardest feelings about Boroume’s success. The growing demand for its services is partly explained by the increased recognition of its work. But it also reflects the bleak living conditions of millions of Greeks. Food insecurity is a major aspect of a crisis that has cost Greece more than a quarter of its economic output since 2008, condemning more than one in four working age people to unemployment. According to the latest survey by UNICEF, 40 per cent of Greek children are living in poverty.

“My studies in Edinburgh equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to do the things I wanted back in Greece. And my readings and experiences helped shape the person I am today,” says Xenia.

One particular influence stands out. “At one point we studied Plato. And I learned that social communities are built when people realise they are not self-sufficient. This is what’s happening today in Greece. People no longer feel self-sufficient and seek cooperation and solidarity.”

Soup kitchens and growing poverty are also the feature of the Greek crisis that stris Demetrios Iatrides’ heart. Demetrios, who graduated in 1997, cannot help but compare this predicament with how things were in Greece as recently as 11 years ago.

In 2001, at the age of 29, he completed his army service and joined the Olympics 2004 Organising Committee. Back then, Greece was thriving. In 2002, the euro replaced the drachma and a period of rapid economic growth, increased incomes and general optimism was under way. Two years later, Demetrios was part of the success of the Olympics’ homecoming, running an Olympics venue and managing a team of 1,200 staff, volunteers and contractors.

After the Olympics, Demetrios took up senior posts at the Hellenic Parliament, Greece’s national broadcaster and the ministries of health, defence and foreign affairs.

Then, in 2013, he saw the miracle collapse, when Greece was cut off from international credit markets and was forced to ask for a bailout from its European partners and the International Monetary Fund in exchange for tough austerity measures and reforms. “The shock was violent,” Demetrios recalls.

Before returning to the private sector a year ago, Demetrios was Special Secretary for Community Resources and Infrastructure, within Greece’s Ministry of Rural Development and Food. During his 18 months there, he oversaw the distribution of €1.3 billion in funding, increasing the take-up rates of EU cohesion funds by more than 600 per cent.

As special secretary, Demetrios identified the growing desire of young Greeks to go back to working the land. He initiated the Young Farmers’ Agriculture Programme, which gave working capital to aspirant farmers and start-ups. More than 11,000 men and women gained a job through the programme.

He says the key to success was cutting red tape and adopting a hands-on approach. “We identified the problems, and then swiftly solved them.”

Demetrios is the president of the University of Edinburgh Greek Alumni Association. “Edinburgh taught me how to think out of the box,” he says.

And his Edinburgh years have brought an additional benefit: the apparent omnipresence of Edinburgh alumni. “When I negotiated with the European Commission, for example, being an Edinburgh graduate proved vital. We spoke the same language, and many EU officials were fellow alumni.” He recalls.

Demetrios sees an uphill road for Greece, but is confident that Greece can be transformed in the coming years. “I believe that if we work hard, Greece will finally become a turnaround story.”

The Greek Alumni Association is one of 16 active alumni groups across continental Europe, part of our community of more than 200,000 alumni throughout the world.

DEMETRIOS IATRIDES
Demetrios Iatrides has a BA in Economics and International Relations from Brown University, an LLB from Edinburgh, and an MSc and MBA from the Athens University of Economics and Business. His early career was in finance in Greece and the UK, before joining the Organising Committee for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, first as Sports, Finance and Human Resources Manager and, later, as Venue Director.

He has served as adviser in the Greek Parliament, in the Public Broadcasting Company and as a special adviser to the Ministers of Health, Foreign Affairs and the National Defence. Between 2013 and 2015 he was Special Secretary for Community Resources and Infrastructure of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

TACKLING CRISIS WITH CONFIDENCE

As Greece’s political and economic turmoil continues, Giorgos Christides speaks to two fellow Greek alumni about their inspiring responses to their country’s crisis and the influence of their Edinburgh degrees.

GIORGOS CHRISTIDES
Giorgos Christides has a journalism and communication degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and an MSc in European and International Politics from Edinburgh. He is currently studying for a PhD on the Greek and European debt crisis at Aristotle University. He is a correspondent for the German newspaper and website Der Spiegel and a regular contributor to BBC World Service, for both radio and online news. He is a former economics editor of the Greek newspaper Makedonia. He has worked as a translator for three major Greek publishers.

XENIA PAPASTAVROU
Xenia Papastavrou has an MA in Philosophy and Ancient Greek from Edinburgh, an MSc in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Diploma in Creative Writing from the UK’s Open University.

She has held senior editorial roles in magazine publishing, and until recently taught the core Theory of Knowledge subject to international baccalaureate students at the Hellenic School in Athens. She recently joined the Bodosiaki Foundation, a Greek organisation that seeks and distributes funds for public good.

In 2011 Xenia founded Boroume, a nonprofit group connecting unwanted food with local demand for food. Boroume has enabled the supply of more than five million meals to-date.

My studies in Edinburgh equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to do the things I wanted to do back in Greece.
Thanks to the wonderful staff and students who run FLAC we were able to seek justice.

When Robert and Nathan Gale had some good news to celebrate, they did what any other couple would do and hit the town to enjoy a few drinks. Except their night out in Glasgow came to an abrupt end when the pair were refused entry to a popular nightclub, one they’d enjoyed visiting many times before.

They weren’t wearing the wrong shoes. They weren’t displaying the signs of too much alcohol consumption or threatening to start a fight with anyone. In fact they weren’t breaking any rules at all. Robert and Nathan were told they couldn’t come into this particular night spot because they were disabled and the venue didn’t have any facilities to accommodate wheelchair users.

The couple tried to persuade staff to reconsider. Robert, who has cerebral palsy, crawled up the stairs to prove that he didn’t need a wheelchair ramp, and after door staff refused to let Nathan take his wheelchair to him, Robert took up residence on the club floor. The nightclub staff responded by calling the police and Robert, who has cerebral palsy, crawled up the stairs to prove that he didn’t need a wheelchair.

However, Nathan, who is an equality campaigner and a graduate of the University of Edinburgh’s Diploma in Professional Legal Practice, quickly recognised that the actions of the nightclubs were not just unfair but potentially in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

When Nathan brought their story to FLAC, the centre’s volunteers referred the case to the Faculty of Advocates’ Free Legal Services Unit (FLSU). The Gales decided to take legal action against G1 Group, owners of the night club, represented by FLSU advocate Russell Bradley with support from FLAC student volunteers David Gray and Kirsty McGregor acting as instructing solicitors.

“The support we received from FLAC was incredible,” says Nathan. “If they had not given us such encouragement I honestly don’t think we would have pursued our discrimination case. Thanks to the wonderful staff and students who run FLAC my partner and I were able to seek justice for the terrible discrimination that we suffered.”

Their case turned out to be a landmark one. It is one of a small number of civil cases seen in Scotland under the Equality Act relating to access to commercial premises for disabled people, and they won. The Glasgow Sheriff Court ruled that the couple had been discriminated against and G1 was ordered to pay £2,000 in compensation, after the nightclub owner’s legal representatives agreed to the decree.

Of course not all cases or issues that are brought to FLAC are as high profile, but the story demonstrates that the guidance the student volunteers are able to provide can make a critical difference to individuals who may have limited access to legal services.

In a typical year the Centre will see more than 180 clients who present a variety of legal issues. Most commonly housing problems and family law disputes. The Centre also provides guidance on debt, consumer law, employment, IT, planning and wills.

FLAC provides important training for Edinburgh Diploma students who are en route to qualifying as lawyers. FLAC Director Rebecca MacKenzie (AJL 2003), who also oversees the provision of the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at the University, is a passionate advocate for student involvement in the Centre to help develop civic-minded legal professionals.

“I am a great believer that pro bono work should be promoted as a professional value and students should be encouraged to develop a sense of duty to ensure access to justice not just at university but also...”

The University’s impact is often considered in an international context. Claire Simpson looks closer to home to explore the mutually beneficial relationship with the local community of which staff, students and many alumni are members.
Any institution should be engaging with its local community in as many ways as it can.

DR ANDREW GARDINER
BVM&S 1992

Throughout their professional careers, says Rebecca, ‘indeed many of our volunteer solicitors were previously students at the University and they return to help because they want to remain involved and give something back to the community.’

This connection between legal training and community outreach is part of the wider context of the University’s place in the city of Edinburgh. With 30,000 students, 13,000 staff and 37,000 graduates having an Edinburgh postcode, people linked directly to the University amount to a substantial proportion of the Scottish capital’s 490,000 population. The University of Edinburgh, while projecting an international image, has always played a central role in the life of its host city. Its staff, students and alumni have a profound impact locally; that is perhaps sometimes overshadowed by achievements on the global stage.

A service run by Dr Andrew Gardiner (BVM&S Clinical Veterinary Studies 1992) is one such project that benefits the local community.

Andrew, a Senior Lecturer and researcher at Edinburgh’s Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, first got involved with volunteering when he was a veterinary student at Edinburgh. At weekends he helped at the animal charity PDSA.

‘I’m really keen on primary care and community animal health and welfare, and also animals and humans on the periphery, however you see that, as well as social accountability and how that translates into veterinary medicine and looking at the human-animal bond,’ he says.

So when the Vet School was bequeathed an endowment with the condition that the money should be used to help look after animals belonging to homeless people, Andrew was a strong candidate to take a project forward. Around the same time, staff from Dunedin Harbour hostel approached the Vet School seeking advice on handling the pets of the hostel’s homeless residents. Andrew responded by setting up a project to run regular vet clinics at the hostel.

Dunedin Harbour is one of only two Edinburgh homeless hostels that allow pets, and Andrew was already familiar with the homeless centre through a documentary Sleeping Ruff created by two of his friends, Susi Arnott and Stephen Blakeway. The film charts the close bond between Edinburgh’s rough sleepers and their pets, and highlights that for many homeless individuals their pets can limit the options however you see that, as well as social accountability and how that translates into veterinary medicine and looking at the human-animal bond,’ he says.

Unfortunately, this attachment to their animals can limit the options for shelter for many homeless people. The vast majority of homeless hostels in the UK refuse to take animals. Dunedin is an exception, and Andrew’s clinics play an important role in supporting the hostel to continue this policy.

Andrew visits on a regular basis to deliver preventative veterinary services such as vaccination, worming and micro-chipping, as well as giving advice on animal health, welfare and behaviour. His colleague Amy Jennings runs similar clinics at another hostel in the city centre.

Andrew is keen to integrate his outreach work into his teaching, and students often join him at the hostel clinics, and are now working with him to expand the service by offering additional pop-up clinics.

His connections to East Lothian charity Fostering Compassion have opened up further opportunities for students to get involved with volunteering. Fostering Compassion works with at-risk and vulnerable children to encourage them to develop empathy and compassion for animals by offering animal- and nature-themed workshops that run throughout the year.

Recently, a group of veterinary students designed and hosted a workshop at the clinical skills lab at the Dick Vet in Easter Bush.

“It was one of the best workshops we’ve had and the children had a ball,” says Fostering Compassion founder Lesley Winton. “To be able to work with the veterinary students in this way is an invaluable opportunity for the children that they wouldn’t ordinarily get.”

For Andrew, who was the 2015 recipient of the Principal’s Medal for Service to the Community, being involved in the community in this way is an important role for any university.

He says: “We’ve got some of the world’s leading specialists here, in all sorts of disciplines, so I think it’s good that the Vet School works at the grass roots level as well. I feel that’s part of what a university is about and any institution should be engaging with its local community in as many ways as it can.”

Staff and students participate in countless projects that “give back” to the University’s host city. Among the more well known and permanently established are the Hope Park Counselling Centre and the Music in the Community programme.

HOPE PARK COUNSELLING CENTRE

The University’s Hope Park Counselling Centre provides counselling to people over the age of 16 living in Edinburgh, offering time to work through personal issues or difficulties that are causing distress. It is a practice and research centre for qualified counsellors and counsellors in training.

The service is provided by volunteer counsellors from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. Ability to pay does not affect access to counselling, and clients are asked to donate between £2 and £30 per session. Sessions last 50 minutes and are arranged with the same counsellor each week for periods of six, eight or 12 weeks initially.

MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY

The Reid School of Music has been offering the Music in the Community course to students for many years. Students respond to the community’s needs and engage with a range of community groups, including schools, adult training centres and hospitals.

Students are able to broaden their musical knowledge and skills as well as learn about the usefulness and limitations of music in a variety of community and therapeutic situations.

Among the highlights of 2015 was a project with children from Leith Walk Primary School working on Watching, an opera about the crucial role of sleep in people’s lives. The children performed the opera at dusk in March at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

“THE BIG LEAP” PAGE 6

SEE ALSO

HOPE PARK COUNSELLING CENTRE

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

WINTER 2015 | 16
Rio, a miniature Shetland pony, was rushed to Edinburgh’s Equine Hospital for life-saving treatment as a newborn foal. His story is part of a vast range of work taking place at the Vet School, from teaching and research to veterinary services offered both locally and nationally, writes Tara Womersley.

The University of Edinburgh

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NO JOB TOO SMALL

NO JOB TOO SMALL

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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NEW EQUINE UNIT

An ambitious £3.7 million redevelopment of the Equine Hospital starts in January 2016, for which a £1 million fundraising target has been set. The planned new Equine Diagnostic, Surgical and Critical Care Unit comes in light of a growth of emergency cases and an increased demand for advanced diagnostic and intensive management.

The unit will replace the Equine Hospital’s current surgery, radiography and intensive care block, which was last refurbished in 1993.

Teaching will benefit from an overhead viewing area in the theatre suite where students can watch and discuss operations as they are happening. The surgical area will consist of two state-of-the-art operating theatres with induction and recovery boxes, plus a new standing surgery suite. This suite, which can be used for standing fracture repair and laparoscopy, will reduce the risk of complications associated with general anaesthesia and enable faster recovery times.

The diagnostic and triage area will be located next to the surgical and critical care areas, reducing the need to move horses around the site.

Six stables will be dedicated to equine critical care, including a 10-bed intensive care stall for foals, which will enable them to remain with the mare.

We were able to use anaesthetic equipment that is generally used when operating on dogs.

Dr Richard Reardon

Edinburgh’s Equine Hospital is one of the few facilities in the UK that is equipped with the expertise and technology to deal with such a complicated and time-sensitive case as Rio’s. The close clustering of its imaging suite, laboratories and equine operating theatres enables staff to retrieve results quickly (lab results can be turned around in 15 minutes) and to collaborate on dealing with the challenge of unexpected factors, such as, in Rio’s case, his small stature.

When we arrived, I didn’t think they realised quite how small Rio was, as I was asked to bring the trailer around as close as possible to the diagnostic imaging suite to save him from having to walk very far,” Donna remembers. “He was only about 15 kilos – so about the size of a small dog – and he ended up just being carried in for imaging in someone’s arms.”

Rio’s tiny lungs would not have coped with the anaesthetics equipment generally used for ponies and horses, and Dick Vet staff had to bring over an anaesthetic machine from the School’s adjacent Small Animal Hospital.

Dr Richard Reardon, the equine surgeon who handled Rio’s care, says the breadth of experience within the RDSVS, and the quick thinking of School staff, ensured the Edinburgh team were able to provide their unique patient with the very best treatment.

“Although we do treat a number of Shetlands, as a miniature Shetland and at just four days old Rio is certainly the smallest foal I have treated,” he says. “Fortunately, our specialist anaesthetists have experience covering both the Equine Hospital and the Small Animal Hospital, so were able to use anaesthetic equipment that is generally used when operating on dogs.”

There were also no blankets that would fit Rio’s small size, so we got a dog blanket and a dog rug to keep him warm. He certainly became a bit of a star with the students.”

Rio and Floss were monitored at the Dick Vet for nearly a month while the foal recovered and started to suckle again from his mother.

Dr Heardon says Floss also captured the hearts of Edinburgh staff. “Some mares can be incredibly protective of their foals, but Floss was exceptionally laid back and a joy to deal with,” he says.

Rio is one of around 1500 referrals that Edinburgh’s Equine Hospital receives each year for specialist treatment. This is in addition to the 4000 appointments made annually by the Dick Vet’s first opinion Equine Practice, which involves vets travelling to provide non-hospital treatment to horses in the area. The Vet School also has a Production Animal Service, which includes a farm animal general practice, a Hospital for Small Animals, which accepts referrals from first opinion vets, a small animal general practice and a Rabbit, Exotic and Wildlife Service.

Dr John Keen, Director of the School’s Equine Hospital and Practice, says: “As one of the very few large specialist equine referral hospitals, it is not unusual that Rio was referred to us from the north of England. We take in cases from all over Scotland, including the islands, and have also had cases referred to us from the south of England.”

Specialist treatment offered by the Equine Hospital includes orthopaedics, dentistry, and treatment for heart and lung conditions and MR and CT imaging. As well as high-quality ultrasound, MRI and CT scanners, which reduce the risk of having to put horses under general anaesthetic for images to be collected.

“I was incredibly impressed with all that the Equine Hospital was able to do for Rio and the expertise of its staff,” Mrs Riley says. “He certainly had a tough start in life but you wouldn’t know it. We still call him our wonky donkey, although he’s now doing just fine.”

“Some mares can be incredibly protective of their foals, but Floss was exceptionally laid back and a joy to deal with,” he says.

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

VETERINARY CLINICAL SCIENCES
Aileen Ballantyne

When Wendy Brooks started her new job after graduating with first-class honours in Community Education in July 2015, she closed a circle.

Wendy, a single parent in her forties, is now a career support worker at an organisation that nearly a decade earlier had helped Wendy herself gain the confidence to re-enter the education system.

The only formal qualifications Wendy previously had were four O-Grades, after a difficult time during her school years.

“My mum and dad divorced when I was 11 and my dad became ill with depression for 18 months, so I was basically his carer for that period,” Wendy says.

“At my local comprehensive in Edinburgh I was the fat child with glases who lived with just her dad – and we lived on benefits. That was how the other kids saw me. The fact that I was able to do academic stuff just meant that I was bullied into doing other people’s work. I gave up working hard then because I just wanted to disappear – I didn’t want to be noticed.”

Art was an interest that persisted, however. Wendy decided that she wanted to be the person who designed and created signs on vans and shops. “I told the careers officer at school. He said that wasn’t feasible and that I should just go and train as a florist. That wasn’t what I wanted to do – not at all,” Wendy says.

On leaving school Wendy earned her living working in bars and restaurants. Later she became a page compositor – putting together newspaper pages by cutting and pasting columns of type and pictures, before the days of electronic page make-up. “I was working on the Evening News the night of the Lockerbie bombing in 1988. It was a night I’ll never forget – and the one time I actually heard the words, ‘Hold the front page.”’

Wendy says.

Today, working for VOCAL, Voice of Carers in Lothian, it’s Wendy’s job to ensure that carers have the support and knowledge to access the help and benefits they need in their roles looking after parents, children and others. Her university studies reflect her experiences in earlier life. An important part of her degree was a 12,000-word dissertation entitled Hidden Injuries of Class and Gender.

“When I was at school the girls did home economics for the first and second year while the boys did metalwork and woodwork. In a lot of ways things weren’t all that different from the way they were for my mother’s generation.”

They all supported each other on that degree course. It was terrific.”

Wendy Brooks BA COMMUNITY EDUCATION 2015

The expectation was that the man would be out in the world making a living while the woman was at home budgeting to feed a family. There was basically no expectation about getting on and progressing.”

Wendy had her son, Ethan, in her early thirties, and when he was six it became clear that he was having problems dealing with certain social situations and was diagnosed as having Asperger syndrome. Looking after her young son and dealing with his autism became Wendy’s full-time occupation.

It was during that period that Wendy became aware of VOCAL and the support it could give her. By the time Ethan was eight, Wendy’s ambition to work for a better life for herself and her son led her to study part-time for an HNC at Jewel and Elk College, now part of Edinburgh College. She gained an A grade, and decided to apply to the University of Edinburgh for a full-time degree, even though this meant taking on a loan.

When she was registering as a student in September 2010 Wendy went through her situation and financial details with “a young guy in the University Registry who was just incredibly helpful,” she says. “All I know is that his name was Joe, but I’ll never forget him.”

A month later she was contacted by the University and learnt she had been selected for a £1,000-a-year bursary known as the Paul Meitner award.

Wendy recently met Paul Meitner (MA Economics & History 1982). “He was in Edinburgh on business, and was aware of VOCAL and the hidden injuries of class and gender,” she says.

Wendy’s degree took an extra year due to the illness and subsequent death of her father, John, who she says was the “father figure” in Ethan’s life. Losing his much-loved granddad just as he went into adolescence was particularly difficult for Ethan.

For Wendy, it was difficult to focus on her dissertation at that point, though she managed with the support of her University friends. “Three of my fellow students came to help me clear my father’s house when he died – we all supported each other on that degree course. It was terrific.”

Dr Jim Crowther, her dissertation supervisor, suggested she take a year out after her father’s death. “Having support and understanding like that made all the difference,” Wendy says. It became clear that he was having vocational placements she undertook as part of it, were all about empowerment: empowerment of schoolchildren at Loanhead Primary in Edinburgh, and empowerment of young people and adults within their own communities. She says. “I’ve learned how to support others to empower themselves, to take control and move themselves forward.”

EMPOWERED BY DEGREES

Is there a typical mature student? Aileen Ballantyne speaks to a fellow recent graduate about her inspiring story, which perhaps runs contrary to some stereotypes.

Dr Aileen Ballantyne (MA 1976, MSc 2009, PhD 2014) is an award-winning poet and former journalist.

Having worked as medical correspondent for both the Guardian and the Sunday Times, she returned to Edinburgh in 2008 to study creative writing, first at masters level and then completing her PhD in 2014. She now works as a tutor at the University of Edinburgh.

Aileen’s poetry has won a number of awards, including first prize in the 2015 Milesian Poetry Competition for her series Lockerbie. Pan Am Flight 103, and first prize in the short poem category in the 2015 international Poetry on the Lake Festival at Isola San Giulio, Italy. She is currently finalising her first collection of poetry.

Around 6,000 of the University’s current 21,000 undergraduate students are aged 21 or over. Wendy Brooks was one of around 100 people aged 40 or over to graduate with an undergraduate degree from the University in the summer of 2015.
This instrument, which might be mistaken for something modern and electronic, is a mute violin made in the early 19th century. The instrument is designed for practising, entirely lacking a sound box. It was bought by John Donaldson, Reid Professor of Music, in 1855, making it one of the founding instruments of the Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments, which today numbers 5,500 items. More than 800 of these items are soon to be on permanent display in St Cecilias Hall, Scotland’s oldest purpose-built concert hall, opened in 1763, which is currently undergoing a £6.5 million redevelopment. Among items in the collection is the baroque guitar photographed on the front cover of Edit, attributed to Matteo Sellas, of Venice, 1640.
in 1919. Her father died in the influenza epidemic and at the age of three she became a nurse.

Ethel Bedford Fenwick, who fought for the status of the nursing profession, is often referred to as the “nursing messiah of the 20th century”.

1956

First British University to Set Up a Nurse Teaching Unit

With support of the Rockefeller Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO) the Nurse Teaching Unit was established within the Faculty of Arts in 1956, based initially in the top flat of 40A George Square. A year later it became known as the Nursing Studies Unit.

1962

International School of Advanced Nursing Studies Founded

The International School was described as “the first of its kind in the world” by the Secretary of the University in 1962. It offered programmes in administration or education, social medicine, nursing and sciences applied to nursing to overseas students, who also took an elective subject and participated in hospital or community field studies. With financial backing from the WHO, the School promoted higher education for nurses on an international level and offered those from developing countries new opportunities. It also enabled the Nursing Studies Unit to establish connections with their nursing organisations around the world.

1971

First Nursing Research Unit at a British University

In 1971 the Nursing Research Unit was launched at Edinburgh, enabling research into hospital and community patient care, and into the organisational structure of nursing. While the research unit closed in 1994, its effect still resonates. The research strengths of Nursing Studies at Edinburgh were recently acknowledged in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, which judged 83 per cent of its research as world leading or internationally excellent.

1978

Nursing Research Scholarships for Edinburgh Graduates

In 1978 a fund was set up with a bequest by Elsie Stephenson’s husband, William Gardner, to support nursing research, fellowships and activities to further the knowledge and practice of nursing. Since then many scholarships have been awarded to graduates of the University’s own Nursing honours degree programme to pursue doctoral studies. In recent years Gardner Scholarship students have undertaken research to develop dementia care strategies, improve the experiences of patients on psychiatric wards and better understand the information needs of cancer patients. These scholars, and others like them, not only develop their own academic careers and often go on to become leaders in their fields, but also make a significant contribution to nursing research and make a difference to patient care.

1983

Professor Annie Altschul

In 1983 the University marked its 400th anniversary. Nursing Studies joined in the festivities by inviting all of its graduates to enjoy a day in July at the University. Nursing Studies at Edinburgh was ranked top of the milestones and pioneers.

As Nursing Studies at Edinburgh marks 60 years of higher education leadership, Edit looks back at some of the milestones and pioneers.

1996

Elsie Stephenson Appointed First Director of Nursing Studies in Europe

Described in the Journal of Advanced Nursing as “Britain’s nursing messiah of the 20th century”, Elsie Stephenson became the first Director of the Nursing Studies Unit in 1956. She is among a small number of international figures that have been instrumental in establishing the status of the nursing profession, who include the Scottish born Ethel Bedford Fenwick, who fought for a national register of nurses.

Stephenson reportedly decided to become a nurse aged three after her father died in the influenza epidemic in 1919.

1960

Integrated Degree (Five-Year MA)

Under Elsie Stephenson’s leadership, the Nursing Studies Unit developed “a system of education and training for women who will later occupy positions of leadership” – a two-year certificate or diploma (depending on previous qualifications) in Advanced Nursing Education with Registered Nurse Teacher status. Stephenson was also determined to produce graduate practitioners and in 1960, a five-year integrated degree programme was introduced, with a four-week hospital placement. The degree was a pioneering move by Edinburgh, which was followed by several other universities across the UK during the 1960s.

2005-2015

Nursing Studies at Edinburgh Best in the UK

Every year from 2005 to 2015 Nursing Studies at Edinburgh was ranked top in the UK in the respected Guardian University guides league table for nursing and midwifery. The 2015 study revealed that 97 per cent of students were satisfied with their degree programme overall, while 98.5 per cent were satisfied with the teaching.
People said only a few harp tunes survived, but I thought ‘good grief it was played for more than 2,000 years’.

**SCOTTISH HARP OR CLÀRSACH?**

Alison Kinnaird is careful to talk about the “Scottish harp” rather than use the often-heard Gaelic term clàrsach.

She plays both, but explains that the true clàrsach is a different instrument from what many people may mean when they use the word. A true clàrsach has metal strings, whereas the more commonly played harp – the harp of the east coast and lowlands – has gut strings, which today are often made of nylon.

Playing the two instruments requires different techniques: the metal strings of the clàrsach are plucked with fingernails, while gut-string harps are played with the pads of the fingertips.

“They’re related but very different,” says Alison. “You could be good at one but not the other. It’s a bit like the piano and organ.”

**THE WHEEL THAT CUTS**

Using the ancient intaglio technique, Alison’s main engraving tool is a tiny lathe from which a spinning wheel sticks out on a spindle. She brings glass up to the wheel and achieves the marks she wants by moving the glass.

Diamond-edged wheels do the rough work, copper wheels the more detailed stages. Alison feeds the copper wheel with water and carborundum, a silicon carbide powder. This does the actual cutting, wearing away both the glass and the copper, which needs regular filing to rebuild the desired cutting profile.

Near her lathe is a rack of wheels of varying sizes – all steadily shrinking with use. The lathe spindle reaches only 20cm, so for larger works Alison uses a wheel on a flexible hand-held drive, similar to a dentist’s drill.
EDINBURGH EXPERIENCE

From artists to zoologists, many graduates view their time at Edinburgh as the formative years of their professional lives. Here are a few of your experiences and updates on recent achievements and successes.

CAMERON BROWN
BSC GEOGRAPHY
2008

I chose Edinburgh because I knew the city was compact and easy to explore while managing to maintain an incredible international buzz. Memories of university largely revolve around sport and the University Air Squadron. I decided to take up paragliding, a sport I had never played, only to end up in A&E in Fresher’s week, having used my face rather than my stick to tackle someone. I later got stuck in with the University Rugby Team, regularly running out with the 2nd XV. There is nothing quite like training on a January evening down at Pfeiffer’s in the driving wind and hail.

ESUAS, the East of Scotland University Air Squadron, provided my most formative experiences. As a reserve in the RAF I was taught to fly (including aerobatics), went on numerous ski trips and had the opportunity to work at the Royal International Tattoo in Edinburgh. I later joined Icon Films where I worked as a first officer. Finally I completed my training with, to train around a year, longing for that door to open into the airline world. Finally, I decided to take up paragliding, a sport I had never played, only to end up in A&E in Fresher’s week, having used my face rather than my stick to tackle someone. I later got stuck in with the University Rugby Team, regularly running out with the 2nd XV. There is nothing quite like training on a January evening down at Pfeiffer’s in the driving wind and hail.

On leaving University I spent a couple of years working for the charity Christian Aid, helping with Africa. Somehow I had begun to get involved with Edinburgh. Part of my work was in Kampala, Uganda, which was a truly rewarding time. My commercial flight training began at the Royal International Tattoo in Edinburgh. I met some of my best friends. Without the support of someone. I later got stuck in with the University Rugby Team, regularly running out with the 2nd XV. There is nothing quite like training on a January evening down at Pfeiffer’s in the driving wind and hail.

CLAIRE BROWNIE
BED PHYSICAL EDUCATION
2009

I absolutely loved my time at University. I met some of my best friends there and 10 years later they are still my best friends. I had my heart set on going to Edinburgh to be a PE teacher since my second year at secondary school. My course was very sociable and I got to know all 100 people in my year group and most of us are still in touch.

During my summers I had some great experiences including the World Youth Championships in the Cook Islands, a tour to Barbados, Camp America and of course my first holiday with University friends. Without the support of the University, I would never have managed to get to the World Youth Championships as they supported me as a bursary athlete.

After leaving university I have recently moved to Bath to further pursue my netball career. Edinburgh's Individual Performance Programme enabled me to manage my academic and sporting commitments and helped me to get to where I am now. While at Edinburgh I played for Scottish Universities, British Universities and Scotland under-23s and the senior national squad.

These experiences have led to me competing in the Commonwealth Games and World Championships, two highlights of my life.

CATHARINE RAYNER
BA ILLUSTRATION
2004

When I first came to Edinburgh to find out more about Edinburgh College of Art I was overwhelmed by the city and the college buildings. Luckily ECA is a very friendly place and it didn’t take long to make friends and find my way around.

On our course we worked long hours. I think we were all motivated by each other and we were often late at the studio at weekends and into the night, by choice. I was in a fantastic year group and most of us are still in touch.

Many of us went on to work in illustration and design, so we often bump into each other professionally, which is lovely.

If I had to look back and describe what ECA did for me the word I would think is “time”. There was time to spend on your ideas, with gentle guidance and a nurturing environment. I really enjoyed my time at ECA, but the main thing I made was inspiring and enduring.

Charlie Bingham
MSC ZOOLOGY
2007

I originally attended Imperial College, but didn’t enjoy the course or the social life in London. Most people seemed to come and go, treating the university like a sixth form college. I had visited friends in Edinburgh and was really taken with it, so applied to join in my second year.

This scary decision was one of the best I have ever made. The course was superb, and the circle of friends I made were inspiring and enduring.

I didn’t have an easy journey through university, finding it incredibly hard to apply myself academically until relatively late, but the support and encouragement I had from various members of staff was amazing.

After graduating I started work with the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, which had been my dream since the age of seven. I was a PA to Wendy Darke, now head of the unit, and through her I got my first break editorially, as a researcher on the first series of the children’s wildlife series Deadly 60.

I later joined Icon Films where I worked on films for National Geographic, Discovery, BBC and Animal Planet, directing on The One Show and River Monsters.

More recently, I have been doing a lot of development work and in 2016 I directed 3 hours for ITV with Julian Clary called Nature Nuts.
Many a lasting relationship is forged during university days, and we want to hear how you met your partner or best friend. Here is a range of memorable on-campus moments that led to lifetimes together.

**Vivian Abrahams**
BSc Physiology 1951, PhD 1955, DSc 1978

**Pamela Dance**

**Kenneth King**
PhD African History 1968
Pravin Khilnani
MA Arts 1968

**SAFARI SO GOOD**
Our 50-year safari together started in 1965 with Pravina as undergraduate and me as postgraduate. I met Pravina through friends at a public seminar early in the term. She was an officer in the students’ United Nations Association, and she invited me to talk about Ethiopia, where I had been teaching before I was attracted back to Edinburgh by the new Centre of African Studies (CAS).

We went to a number of lectures together, including those on African History by the late Christopher Fyfe. Luckily for me, Pravina didn’t press her Sanditon in her final term, so she stayed on, and we got engaged in October 1967. We were married in Rosslyn Chapel by Roland Walls, whose lectures in New College we had both attended. We had a second wedding in New Delhi.

We started teaching in Kenya in September 1968, Pravina in her old school, and me at the University of Nairobi. We came back to Edinburgh in 1972, for me to take up a new position in the CAS.

I eventually directed the Centre for 20 years, and Pravina became the CAS administrator in 1991. She organised Scotland-Africa ’97, the largest celebration of Scotland’s cultural connections with Africa ever held.

We retired in 2005, and was invited to the University of Hong Kong. We both got involved in researching China’s role in Africa, which resulted in a book, China’s aid and soft power in Africa: the case of education and training. I am now Emeritus Professor in the School of Social & Political Science.

**DINNER AND DESTINY**
In 1954 I was transitioning from assistant lecturer to lecturer while completing a PhD. A charming young graduate from University College London arrived to take up a scholarship, also to complete a PhD.

As a well-brought-up young man I did not get involved with this person, but did introduce her an English girl from a farm in Berkshire, to some parts of the Edinburgh social scene.

Everything changed on 28 January 1955. It was Paris birthday – and pay day. Since my promotion I had moved from the near-starving to the relatively affluent. In a wild moment I invited everybody to a pub lunch to celebrate Paris birthday. I enjoyed Paris company so much that I invited her to dinner that evening, and we have been doing dinner ever since. We married that year.

Pam never completed her PhD but we have both recently retired from Professional positions at Queen’s University, Ontario.

**Peter Gibbons**
BSc Physics 1983
Kathleen Murphie
BSc Engineering 1984

**ELEVENTH-HOUR DATE**
Our first meeting couldn’t be described as romantic: a crowded tearoom in the James Clerk Maxwell Building. Katy was a freshman chemical engineer and I was a third year physics undergraduate.

Through a circle of mutual friends our paths crossed regularly and we got to know each other. However, I nearly sabotaged things when Katy asked me to hand in her maths tutorial – I decided to check it over and made a significant change only to realise at the last moment her original was correct. I have never fixed that down.

We finally managed a “date” one week before I left Edinburgh – timing was not my strong point. We had dinner and got on incredibly well. Work and distance meant it took time for us to realise that we were best friends and meant to be together – a vacation in Paris certainly helped.

We’ve been married 25 years and have three children. That tearoom meeting led to a wonderful life together.

**VIVIAN ABRAHAMS**

**KENNETH KING**

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**SPANNING THE ARTS, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Alumni from across the disciplines tell the stories of their unique connections with the three bridges across the Firth of Forth.

Professor Angelo Maggi (PhD Architecture 2003) shares his fascination with the longest bridge of its kind in the world. Read your fellow alumni’s amazing stories and enjoy footage and photos at edit.ed.ac.uk/span-forth.

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**HISTORY MAKERS – INFORMATICS**

Our first interactive History Makers features the people and events that have kept Edinburgh at the forefront of informatics.

Our History Makers feature covers the arrival of computers at Edinburgh, breakthroughs in robotics, computer language and artificial intelligence, and the formation of successful spin-outs and start-ups.

Our timeline has grown through contributions and comments from readers. We hope you will continue to help us expand our History Makers timelines, including the new one featuring Nairn Studies, edit.ed.ac/history-informatics.

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**THE REFUGEE CRISIS**

The University’s Big Idea podcast series dedicated an episode in the autumn to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe.

Three experts from across the University look at the underlying causes for the displacement of millions of people, such as the civil war in Syria and the influence of so-called Islamic State.

Dr Thomas Pierret, Dr Steve Kirkwood and Nina Perkowski discuss how the crisis is challenging the European Union’s foundations, consider the language used when discussing refugees, and ask whether the UK is doing enough to help.

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Visit Edit online for additional multimedia content plus monthly supplementary stories between magazine editions. You can also comment on any of our stories and contribute to our History Makers timelines.

The digital edition of Edit, edit.ed.ac.uk, offers an additional way to enjoy news and features about the University and your fellow alumni. Online we offer video, audio and a greater selection of photographs than is possible in a printed magazine.

Between full editions of Edit, we also publish monthly supplements online. Since the summer edition, which was published in digital format only, we have published five supplements. These have featured the three bridges across the Firth of Forth, the history of Informatics at Edinburgh, unique research projects on street dogs in India and red deer on the Isle of Rum, and a podcast about Europe’s refugee crisis.

Below we offer a taste of three of our supplements. See them all at edit.ed.ac.uk/contents/issue/2.

Since the summer edition, which was published in digital format, we also publish monthly supplements in a printed magazine. The digital edition of Edit, edit.ed.ac.uk, offers an additional way to enjoy the stories and enjoy footage and photos at the longest bridge of its kind in the world. Read your fellow alumni’s amazing stories and enjoy footage and photos at edit.ed.ac/history-informatics.
I REMEMBER...

MCEWAN HALL

The McEwan Hall was completed in 1897 after what remains the biggest single gift to the University, from the brewer Sir William McEwan. Today the building is undergoing major restoration and improvement works, embracing its original purpose as one of Edinburgh’s great venues. For alumni, the hall evokes strong and sometimes surprising memories.

One of our class was on an army scholarship and was in ceremonial uniform. Suddenly there was a gap of多年: one friend had lost a contact lens. We all got on our hands and knees to search, including Tim — until he hissed at him to get up before he impaled us all on his spurs. He sat anxiously whilst we all crawled around him. We found the missing lens just at the dignitaries processed in.

Mucosal immunity lies its interest. I moved to Edinburgh in 2003 from the US, where I had been studying the role of the small molecule nitric oxide (NO) in the skin’s reaction to sunlight, to see if this would give an insight into skin cancer development. The Nobel Prize for medicine in 1998 was awarded for the discovery of NO; a growing number of effects of NO were being discovered, and the synthase enzyme that makes it had been found in increased levels in skin after sun exposure.

In Edinburgh, with mice that lacked NO synthase, I had published some interesting cellular effects of NO, and hoped to move this research into humans on my return to Scotland.

Things did not go as I had expected. Working with Dr Megan McDougall, a very able MD student, we found that we were unable to turn off NO release in human skin, whichever way we blocked the NO synthase.

This was depressing stuff; two years’ work had led to nothing, as we were unable to see what happened to skin in the absence of NO. We set about analysing why this was, and to our surprise, discovered that the skin contains large stores of NO, as stable oxidised forms.

In the chemical conditions of the skin, ultraviolet radiation — as found in sunlight — can convert these back to NO. There was some satisfaction that we had worked out why our experiments hadn’t worked, but, I am ashamed to admit, initially no realisation that this might be important.

At a meeting in Bregenz about six months later, I was talking with colleagues and the possibilities began to dawn on me. Maybe this mechanism might link sunlight and skin with other aspects of physiology. Working with a succession of research students, I was able to show that irradiating humans with ultraviolet A moves NO from its stores in the skin to the circulation, where it dilates blood vessels and lowers blood pressure.

I have had to go back and look at the epidemiology of sunlight and all-cause mortality.

High blood pressure is now the leading cause of premature death and disease in the world, so any steps that reduce it are immensely important. This UV-skin-NO pathway suggests a mechanism by which sunlight may have health benefits.

The clinical half of my life as a dermatologist involves advising patients to limit sunlight exposure to prevent skin cancer. I have now had to go back and look at the epidemiology of sunlight and all-cause mortality, realising that this is a far more important outcome measure than skin cancer alone. Remarkably there are no worthwhile data showing that sunlight exposure shortens life, although it undoubtedly is a risk factor for skin cancer. Several epidemiological studies from Scandinavia now show that increased sun-seeking behaviour correlates with increased life span, even at the expense of more skin cancers.

This continues to be a fascinating research journey. The slightly controversial message has caught the public interest and I have found myself giving talks for TID, the BBC, and even the Cabinet of Dangerous Ideas at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

I have recently teamed up with Dr Darren Shaw at the University’s Roslin Institute to analyse the UK Biobank data and find how sunlight exposure affects all-cause mortality in the UK. I have also received funding from the British Heart Foundation to start a clinical trial on the use of daily UV as a treatment for high blood pressure. Let’s see what the official public health advice will be on sunlight 10 years from now.
The General Council provides graduates with a continuing voice in the management of the University’s affairs, and every graduate automatically becomes a member. Academic staff and members of the University’s governing body, the University Court, are also members of the General Council. It 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

MEMBERS’ VIEWS

We took the highly unusual action of sending an email to members to encourage them to consider further this proposal from the Scottish Government and to register their views on it to their MSP or, if located outwith Scotland, direct to the First Minister. We strongly believed that this Bill was a misguided way to achieve positive developments in governance. Only by making it clear that there was widespread objection to it did there seem any chance it might be revised or, even better, withdrawn.

Many members took such actions and for this we were very grateful. A very small number of members disagreed with our stance on this matter.

At the time of writing, the Bill continues to progress and further action might still be required.

PRIORITIES FOR THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2015/16

The Scottish Government has introduced draft legislation to change the way all Scottish universities are governed. There have been numerous articles in the media about this. The Business Committee shared the stated aims of the Government, which were to make governance more modern, inclusive and accountable. We did not believe that the present legislation was necessary to achieve this.

The Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance was introduced in 2011. Much work has been done across the sector to improve governance in line with this Code. A formal review has been scheduled for 2016. Should any further changes be required they should be set out the outcome of this review.

THREAT TO AUTONOMY

The Business Committee was concerned that the proposals will damage the autonomy of universities and the legal responsibilities of board members as charity trustees, and were counter to good principles of governance. The draft legislation gave wide powers for Scottish Ministers to bring in further changes through secondary legislation, which meant that the full process of parliamentary scrutiny would not be required, further threatening the autonomy of our universities.

The imposition of a “one size fits all” model of governance in such a variety of institutions across Scotland imposed unnecessary and probably harmful uniformity. Hundreds of University of Edinburgh professors would be stripped of their existing rights to take part in Senate.

The proposed changes would reduce the number of our General Council Court Assessors even though these play an active and valuable role on our Court. It would also destroy the very effective dual leadership system developed at this University of having a Vice-Convenor who is equivalent to our Chair of Institution and appointed after an open and transparent process, and a Rector, elected by staff and students, who performs ceremonial functions and presides over Court meetings.

The diversity and autonomy of Scotland’s higher education institutions have helped create a highly successful sector.

A more detailed description of our objections to the draft Bill can be found at: ed.ac.uk/priorities-bill.

The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

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THE FEBRUARY 2016 GENERAL COUNCIL LUNCHEON
Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on Saturday 13 February 2016, 12.30pm for 1pm.

Please send me _______ tickets (£20 each)

A cheque for £________ is enclosed payable to the University of Edinburgh.

Name(s) of guest(s)

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of guest(s)

Dietary requirements/preferences

If you would like to attend the General Council Lunch, please book online via www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening, or complete and return the form (right) no later than Friday 5 February 2016. Tickets at £20 include pre-lunch wine reception and a buffet lunch in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.

Further details and papers appear on page 36.

ELECTIONS

GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTION, FEBRUARY 2016

The February 2016 General Council Half-Yearly Meeting will be held once again in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), High School Yards, Edinburgh, due to continued refurbishment of the School of Law, and after a very successful meeting there in June 2015. The meeting will take place at 10.30am and as usual we look forward to the Principal’s presentation of the Annual Review 2014/15.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2016

The following nominations have been received for the election of five members of the Business Committee to serve from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2020.

Having been privileged to serve over the last four years as Convener of a Standing Committee, I am keen to continue playing an active role, especially in light of the current political moves for change and the inevitable financial and cultural pressures to come.

Harsham Andrew
Niven McKenzie
MA 1967
Proposed by Stuart James Ritchie Walker, MA 1968 Secnded by David Mackenzie Munro, BSc 1973

I have enjoyed being a member of the Business Committee and the Finance and Services Standing Committee for four years and believe I can continue helping make the most of the opportunities and challenges for our University.

Briana Ngamit Pegado
MA 2014

As a former EUSA President, who served on the University Court, and as founder of the Edinburgh Student Arts Festival (ESAF), I would bring a fresh perspective on women’s, BME and international student issues. This is aided by my current role in running the ESAF as a social enterprise.

Stephen Givens Macpherson
Emeritus Professor, University of Edinburgh
Proposed by Charles Patrick Swainson, MB ChB 1971 Secnded by Alan David Pegado, MA 1968

My academic career at Edinburgh University included six years as Vice-Principal International. I received an Edinburgh (DIC) degree and an OBE for services to international higher education. I also learned how the University works. Recently retired, I would be privileged to support the University’s further ambitions through Business Committee membership.

Gordon Douglas Cams
LLB 1979
Proposed by Frances Diana Dow, MA 1969 Secnded by Stuart Gowans Macpherson, Emeritus Professor, University of Edinburgh

Having been privileged to serve over the last four years as Convener of a Standing Committee, I am keen to continue playing an active role, especially in light of the current political moves for change and the inevitable financial and cultural pressures to come.

David Mackenzie Munro, BSc 1973
Proposed by Alan David Gillspeie Brown, MB ChB 1963 Secnded by Lucinda Louise Mackay, MA 1963

I have a long association with the University of Edinburgh where I gained two degrees prior to becoming a Research Fellow and then Director of an educational charity supporting universities in Scotland. I am keen to serve a second term using this experience for the benefit of our University.

Robert John Cormack
Dr h.c. 2009
Proposed by Stuart Kervan Morro, MB ChB 1963 Secnded by Frances Diana Dow, MA 1969

As a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Queen’s University, Principal of UHI, Court Member of Queen Margaret University; and a member of the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the David Hume Institute I would bring experience of research and teaching in a diversity of institutions to the Business Committee.

Stuart Gowans
Macpherson
Emeritus Professor, University of Edinburgh
Proposed by Charles Patrick Swainson, MB ChB 1971 Secnded by Alan David Pegado, MA 1968

VOTING IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTION

This is the opportunity for you to participate in the governance of the University by voting for members of the Business Committee of the General Council. You are eligible to vote if you have previously been a member of the General Council, or if you have applied for membership of the General Council either by application through EASE or by return of a postal vote from the General Council Office before 30 November in the year prior to any election.

To be able to vote online you need to be a member or a member of the General Council eligible to vote in this election and registered through EASE as a MyEd Alumni Portal user. Those who are registered for previous elections do not need to do so again simply use the same username and password. If you have already used the Portal as a student, you should still be able to use your student username and password to access the Alumni Portal. If you are a new user you will need to contact the support service. To do this send an email to the Information Services helpline at IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk requesting access to MyEd and giving your full name, date of your first graduation from Edinburgh and the degree awarded. A username and initial password will then be sent to you. If you experience problems: at any point when registering for, or accessing, the Alumni Portal, please also contact Information Services at the above address, identifying yourself by matriculation number (if known), full name, year, and degree awarded at first graduation from Edinburgh.

February 2016. In order to vote you must register via the EASE registration process as explained below by 1700 GMT on Tuesday 9 February 2016.

Voting Papers are only enclosed where members have specifically requested them previously, no later than 30 November 2015, and should be completed and returned in the enclosed addressed envelope to the Secretary of the General Council. Details of all candidates appear on these pages. Anyone still wishing to vote by post may do so for subsequent elections by requesting a postal vote from the General Council Office before 30 November in the year prior to any election.
BILLET

GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

GENERAL COUNCIL HALF-YEARLY MEETING ON SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2016
10.30AM: THE SEMINAR ROOM, EDINBURGH CENTRE FOR CARBON INNOVATION (ECCI)

10am to 10.30am: Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Atrium, ECCI
10.30am: General Council Meeting in the Seminar Room, ECCI

After the meeting: Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall (see page 34 for details)

BILLET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN THE EDINBURGH CENTRE FOR CARBON INNOVATION ON SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2016

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN 7 BRISTO SQUARE, EDINBURGH, ON 14 FEBRUARY 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2015 were approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that there were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3 REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Convener welcomed everyone to this second Alumni Weekend to be held in Edinburgh.

He began by mentioning the student protest that had recently taken place in Charles Stewart House against the University’s perceived position on investment in companies involved in fossil fuels. He pointed out that it was difficult for large institutions to win an argument in the heat of the moment, particularly against a background of social media, but that they could win the day, which was what the University had done. The University had already undertaken a long consultation involving a broad spectrum of differing views and had come to a very balanced set of decisions, which demonstrated the principles of logic, philosophy and ethics, and also the skills and strengths of the University.

The Academic Standing Committee, led by Professor Stuart Macpherson, had continued to look at the University’s international research and teaching excellence and the Convener lamented the fact that despite the University moving up the research rankings in the UK and internationally there had been no reflection of this in terms of Research Excellence Framework dividend from the Government. However, he felt that there were alternative sources of funding.

The committee had met with one of the University’s Rising Stars and learned first-hand about the pressures on academic life, from among other things, the regulatory burden on UK universities. Also the very welcome efforts to improve the student experience are very time-consuming and take considerable effort from individual members of staff.

Some of the best feedback had come from students who had been able to engage with staff either directly in research, or indirectly through their teaching, and that not everybody could be a great teacher, but everybody could be good. Teaching excellence was rewarded and maintained at the University.

The Constitutional Standing Committee, led by Gordon Cairns, had been revising the General Council leaflet to illustrate better the role of the General Council and examples of how it played into university life and would also be watching the Scottish Government’s reaction to the very mixed consultation responses to the proposed Higher Education Bill.

The Finance & Services Standing Committee, led by Kirsty MacGregor, had not met since the previous report.

The Public Affairs Standing Committee, led by Matt McPherson, had supported Development & Alumni with events planning for the current weekend and the Convener encouraged everyone to attend the interview session with the Principal the following afternoon.

The committee had been thinking about how the Business Committee could use social media better to engage with recent graduates. Edit was now live online, and could be downloaded as an app to smartphones.

The Convener was delighted to welcome the new Rector, Steve Morrison, whose background was as Chief Executive of Granada TV, before starting his own media consultancy and production company, and looked forward to welcoming him to future Half-Yearly Meetings.

The Convener thanked Alan Johnston and Ann Smyth for their unstinting service to the Court and the Business Committee as General Council Assessors. He welcomed new Court Assessors, Ritchie Walker and Alan Brown (former Convener and now a Regent), joining the third Assessor, Doreen Davidson.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener’s remarks are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

4 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday, 13 February 2016, at 50 George Square, Edinburgh (Post-meeting note – due to unforeseen circumstances this has now changed to ECCI, Edinburgh).

Any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 25 November 2015. The following Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 19 June 2016, at a venue in London to be confirmed, and any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 30 March 2016.
Dr Andy Kerr talked about innovation and impact, and in particular today’s great energy challenges together with a brief description of the work of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI). Accessible, cheap and readily available energy was critical for modern societies. A tramula, usually mutually exclusive, existed around this.

The three conflicting priorities were energy security, ensuring it was readily available; sustainability, such as minimising air pollution or carbon emissions; and equity or affordability, the need to keep prices down. Globally there remained additional issues of energy access and supporting economic growth. Currently all aspects were in a state of turbulence.

Energy security changes were ongoing. For example gas supplies were now a global market due to growth in liquefied Natural Gas supplies as well as developments with shale gas. Oil markets have had great price volatility. Against this, the investment in renewable energy had dramatically increased. It had exceeded that in fossil fuels since 2013.

The geographical focus for renewables had also changed, with China now the biggest investor and producer followed by the United States, with huge growth in both wind and solar energy. Air pollution had worsened in many places, mainly due to burning of coal and use of vehicles.

New forms of transport and more intelligent usage were being developed to counter this and the burning of coal reduced markedly. The University was very active in many ways in terms of research, innovation and enterprise. This was covered in its Strategic Plan. Dr Kerr suggested that it should be more proactive in driving public policy and cultural and social change. This would be on a global basis and be multi-sector, in cooperation with a wide range of institutions and stakeholders. The increasing and long-established international profile of the University greatly enhanced its ability to inform and influence.

The ECCI acted as a national hub and knowledge exchange vehicle, working with the Scottish Government on local policies in tandem with many other Scottish institutions. It had business incubation, start-up companies and corporate partners all working in the building. It also had a major educational function, both locally and in important countries such as China. The opening of a branch in Hong Kong emphasised this.

The University and ECCI tried to build research capabilities, influence international strategies and act as a source of independent information as an “honest broker”. Its platform of global academies and expertise in energy, global health, informatics and governance, for example, gave it some highly relevant and useful capabilities.

A wide ranging and challenging discussion session ended the talk.

Rev Dr Harriet Harris closed the meeting with a benediction.

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

The Annex to the Billet, containing supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of Dr Andy Kerr’s presentation, and the Business Committee’s report to the meeting on 6 June 2015, are available at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media (under the Publications tab). General Council members may also request it by post from: Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel. 0131 650 2152. Email general.council@ed.ac.uk or pick a copy up at the location of the Council Meeting from half-an-hour beforehand.

Previous copies of Billet can be found under the Publications tab at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media.
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Hugh Mackay
Geology 1982

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