I MADE IT UP
MARGARET ATWOOD
ON CRAFTING A
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Edit’s digital offering has been expanded and enhanced with the publication of the winter 2014/15 magazine. You can now enjoy additional multimedia content and read the whole of Edit in the way that suits your technology and your preferences.

**RESPONSIVE WEB EDITION**

The web-based edition of the magazine, at edit.ed.ac.uk, now includes every section of Edit from Update to The Last Word and Billet.

This responsive browser-based format, which includes videos with many of the articles, can be viewed across any platform from smartphone to desktop computer. Building on our IPAD, ANDROID AND KINDLE formats, the winter edition of Edit is available as an interactive app for tablet and smartphone, across iOS, Android and Kindle formats, accessed from the Apple Store, Google Play and Amazon.

**ENLIGHTENED**

Our monthly Enlightened newsletter is packed with news about your fellow graduates and the University, and information about alumni benefits.

**DON’T MISS OUT**

From January 2015 we will send one printed edition of Edit to all alumni each year. Our summer edition of Edit will be in digital format only, with additional features added to the web-based version throughout the year. To enjoy the year-round benefit of Edit, Enlightened and all alumni services, make sure we have your details and that your preferences are up to date.

**LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERENCES**

Alumni have access to services and benefits through the secure MyEd portal. For recent graduates, who will have used MyEd while studying at the University, your student login details will have been converted automatically into alumni access. For those who did not use MyEd as a student, you can register for MyEd by emailing our Information Services helpline: IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk.

Through MyEd, you can access a wide range of alumni services, from information about alumni events to careers support. You can also update your preferences, such as whether you receive the printed version of Edit and whether you receive the monthly Enlightened email.
**EN Energy Minister Amber Rudd Launches ‘Breath-taking’ Ocean Simulator**

The University’s marine energy testing facility, FloWave, has been opened by Amber Rudd (MA History 1986), Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility, at the King’s Buildings campus, is a 25-metre circular pool that can recreate both waves and currents found at sea, enabling the testing of energy devices such as tidal generators and floating offshore wind platforms.

“It’s completely breathtaking,” said Ms Rudd at the opening ceremony. “It’s just remarkable to see what can be done with tidal energy.”

She added: “I have lots of fond memories of Edinburgh. I was particularly interested in getting involved in acting, and one of the most extraordinary things I did with a friend was to put on a grown-up version of The Sound of Music. It was slightly hummed up, but extraordinarily good fun.” Edinburgh was a wonderful place to try things out.”

Ms Rudd joined an investment bank after graduating, before entering the venture capital industry, where she helped start-up firms find commercial opportunities.

She said that experience has helped her in her political career. “Understanding what businesses need to create employment has been absolutely critical to the work that I do now.”

**Shiny New Coat for Golden Boy**

The iconic “Golden Boy” statue that tops the dome of Old College has been regilded.

The dome was draped in scaffolding throughout the autumn, as the statue was prepared and gilded on site.

It is the first time in almost 30 years that the weather-beaten statue has been restored. Stonework and leading close to the statue were restored at the same time.

The life-sized bronze figure created by John Hutchinson has marked the city’s skyline since 1888. It is believed to be modelled on a well-known Edinburgh character, Anthony Hall, who was a boxer and athlete and later became a life model. The restoration took 2,500 small squares of 23.5-carat gold leaf to complete.

**North American Office Opens**

The University has strengthened its links with North America by opening a liaison office in New York City.

The new base will aid collaboration between the University and its partners in education, business and government across Canada and the USA. It will also help strengthen ties with Edinburgh alumni in North America and provide a point of contact for prospective students.

The office, at Rockefeller Plaza, is the University’s fourth overseas base, joining the North Asia office in Hong Kong, the Australia office in Sydney and the North America office in Chicago.

Ms Rudd added: “Renewable energy is such an important part of what this country does, and what we need to do. It’s a really exciting day – I think we’re seeing the start of something pretty extraordinary.”

Ms Rudd, MP for Hastings & Rye since 2010, reflected on her time at Edinburgh, saying: “It feels fantastic to be back here, a city that I’ve never stopped loving. Being back in this official capacity makes it very special indeed.”

**As it Happened: 30 Years Ago**

The University Library is publishing digitised editions of the Student newspaper from exactly 30 years ago, week by week.

The newspaper is being published on the library’s blog, in a one-year pilot that began with the 3 October 1984 edition.

“30 years ago we didn’t have the internet. I can almost smell the glue that we used to put the paper together,” said Michael Devlin (MA Arts General 1985), who was editor of the Student in October 1984, in a comment posted to the Library’s blog.

The cover of the first digitised edition features Ian MacGregor (MA English Language & Literature 1985), now Editor of the Daily Telegraph, and Alastair Dalton (MA History 1987), now a journalist with the Scotsman. The Student was founded in 1877 by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Watch the restores work at ed.ac.uk
Q: You regularly visit Edinburgh for the International Book Festival. What have been your favourite experiences of the city?

A: We actually lived in Edinburgh in 1978-9 — my partner Graeme Gibson was the Canadian/Scotland exchange writer that year — so we see old friends, including Aicken Christiansen of the University of Edinburgh, who helped with the research for Alias Greer — one of the murder victims was Scottish. We also see friends we have made since that time: Ian Rankin [MA English Language & Literature 1982] among them. We always pay a visit to the Café Royal with its wonderful old tile murals. Edinburgh is a great city for vintage clothing shops, which we explored when I was there in 2006 as the first Manil Spark Fellow. So far I have avoided the deep fried Mars bar, though I have tried Im-Bu.

Q: Place is important in your writing. Do you find you write differently when in different parts of the world? You’ve lived in Europe, but is Canada where you need to be?

A: It’s not where you’re writing, it’s where you’re writing about. Being in a place very different from the one you are writing about often helps to improve focus. Scotland is good to write in because it’s not too hot. Drizzle helps.

Q: What are your fondest memories of your student experiences at the University of Toronto, and later at Harvard?

A: As an undergraduate I did a lot of multi-tasking because few were interested in the arts in the late 1950s. Sometimes I wrote for the “arty” magazine under different names. Skit writing, acting, set painting, illustrating, poster design. At Harvard it was different: more pressure. In both places I had many excellent teachers. And the libraries were very important to me.

Q: Northrop Frye is noted as an influence in your early academic career. What were the highlights of working with him?

A: Not much as an undergraduate — I took only half a course with him — but I knew him later. A very smart person, extremely well read and also funny.

Q: Do you consider his advice (to go on to Harvard) to have been a seminal moment?

A: The alternative would have been to run away to France, drink Absinthe if I could find any, smoke cigarettes in a garage (hopelessly, they make me cough). Wear black turbanedickies, get TB, and aspire early while composing deathless masterpieces, sort of like Le Bohème. So, in a word, yes.

Q: What other seminal moments did you have in your university days?

A: Maybe when my senior adviser advised me to drop all this writing and academic stuff and find a good husband instead. Think maybe that was seminal.

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Q: You took up academic posts in the 60s and 70s. Do you enjoy the nurturing and teaching aspects of these roles while you researched and published? Did you learn anything from your students?

A: I really did not have much interest in being nurturing and so forth. One doesn’t in one’s 20s and early 30s; usually you are still very anorexic at that age [“How will it all turn out?”]. I stopped teaching full time as soon as I was self-supporting through writing. As is true for everyone who teaches, however, I enjoyed some of my students very much [when they were smart and talked back]. I had fun teaching, but I did not much enjoy some of the more rancorous features of departmental politics.

Q: Mentioning your name in conversation causes sharpened intakes of breath followed by outpourings about favourite reads. Do you have a sense of what your writing has done for so many people? Is this inspiring when moving into new projects?

A: That’s lovely, but I think it’s a feature of living a long time. At my age John Keats had been dead for 50 years. It’s better not to think too much about “the reader” when you are writing. You have to assume there will be one, but if you start anticipating the strange letters, you may freeze.

Q: How did it feel when you won the Booker Prize? How did you celebrate? Did it make the next writing project more or less of a challenge?

A: I think that winning was a cliff-hanger for some time. Every time I didn’t win it, I could expect headlines in the glowing Canadian press – Atwood Fails to Win Booker — as if writing it were like winning a race. Whereas with literary prizes the recipient is inert. It’s a bit more like the Best Pumpkin in the garden show. So I have to admit it was much like a relief. At least I wouldn’t have to go through the Fails to Win stuff again, though of course there was immediately a piece about why I shouldn’t have won it. Canadians like to help you in your constant struggle to keep from getting too puffed up. I celebrated with family, had a drama. My next project was Orys and Giclee, which had a whole new set of challenges. As Monty Python used to say, something completely different.

Q: Is access to education an important issue in your view? And do you believe social change can be brought about through higher education?

A: We could talk about the role of universities through the ages — they’ve been both radical and conservative, as you know. But we can say that opening the doors to — for instance — women and minorities has influenced social change, as it has changed the face of the knowledge-bearers in our society, and thus changed the nature of what sort of knowledge we consider worth investigating, and what sorts of judgments and evaluations we have made.

Q: Going back to finding your feet in the publishing world, do you have any advice for our alumni who may have similar ambitions?

A: There wasn’t much of a “publishing world” in Canada in 1961, not for young Canadian writers. So we made one up. I suppose my advice would go something like: publishing is in flux. Don’t assume that today’s realities are the only ones there are. There’s always another way to do it. But that’s the delivery system. The writing should be the real concern. Write your book the best way you can. That’s step number one.

Margaret Atwood received an honorary degree at the University’s General Council event in Toronto. The Booker Prize winning Canadian author spoke to Barbara Laing about Edinburgh, writing, learning and teaching at university, and the advice she never took.
It is 225 years since the foundation stone was laid for Old College. Architectural historian John Lowrey tells the turbulent story of the beginnings of this iconic building, and heralds a new chapter.

On 16 November 1789 the foundation stone of Old College was laid by the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, in the presence of a crowd of 30,000. This optimistic scene of academic, civic and masonic pomp and cooperation marked the start of a huge, and hugely difficult, project that had been dear to the heart of the veteran principal, William Robertson, for many years.

The disparity, as he saw it, between the fame and success of the University and the meagre collection of buildings that housed it was an affront and even a threat, as the University went through an unprecedented period of expansion.

In the time capsule that was immured in the foundation stone was a copy of the design by Robert Adam that would solve this problem and create the grandest and most coherent example of scholastic architecture in Britain.

Adam had been desperate to secure this commission, but there was an irony in his involvement with the University. This is the architect who had left Scotland as a “narrow place” to seek greater opportunities in London.

Adam’s architectural vision was on a monumental, even urban scale, but in London he lost out to his great rival, William Chambers, in the commission for Somerset House, the greatest public work in Britain of the time.

The rebuilding of the University of Edinburgh is Adam’s Somerset House and its significance lies in its status not only as a major piece of neoclassical architecture but also as a piece of urban design.

The context was the expansion of Edinburgh in the second half of the 18th century. This started with the construction of the North Bridge in 1765, as a prelude to James Craig’s New Town. And in 1784, the city decided to expand in the other direction, with the construction of the South Bridge, which would cut through the eastern end of the University’s property and helped to force a decision on its rebuilding.

Adam intervened in the South Bridge project and ensured that it was aligned with the North Bridge, providing a long, axial route into the city from the south, and he produced grand, essentially Roman, terraced architecture to line this new route. This was to be introduced at the southern end by “the New College”, later to be known as “the College” and eventually, from the early 20th century, as Old College.

Here, the impressive entrance is based on a giant Roman triumphal arch. The College, for Adam, was the start of a via triumpalis, a monumental urban ensemble that introduced the great Enlightenment city and culminated in his Register House at the north end of the route, inspired by another Roman model, the Pantheon.

His college design encompassed a double courtyard: a smaller one just inside the entrance, with professional housing and a new chapel, and beyond that, in the main courtyard, the major teaching spaces, the museum, the library and a “great hall”.

This courtyard was characterised by projecting pavilions on the centres of the north and south facades and open quadrant colonnades forming part of a continuous corridor around the edge of the building.

It would have been Adam’s tour de force but it came late in his career and within three years of the foundation ceremony, he had died, with only a small amount of the building completed. By 1794 his brother and successor James and Principal William Robertson had also died.

The finances of the building fell apart from the mid-1790s when the long wars with France began. It was only after 1815, when Napoleon was defeated, that the project was restarted with an architectural competition. The winner was William Henry Playfair.

He inherited the bulk of the eastern block on South Bridge. At the opposite end, in the north-west corner, Adam’s anatomy theatre was built and it survives today as the only teaching space from the original design. In establishing these two key areas, Adam had made it unlikely that any cost cutting would reduce the college’s overall size.

However, Playfair did have to cut down the ambition of Adam’s design. Playfair retained the key idea of open quadrants and projecting pavilions, but doubled their number to four in an enlarged single court. He also took the brave decision to demolish the façade of the one pavilion that had been built, because its intricate Adam design would have been expensive to produce four times.

Instead a more monumental design was used that is probably more appropriate in the larger space. Playfair’s most obvious contribution to Old College is his stupendous upper library hall. Here, he entirely changed Adam’s design and produced a simpler and hugely impressive space that combines Roman classicism in the coffered barrel vault of the ceiling with a giant Greek Ionic order in the columns at each end, signalling the new taste in what was by now being called the “Athens of the North”.

The current investment in estate by the University, thankfully on a more secure footing than in Adam’s or Playfair’s time, includes substantial work on Old College.

In 2010/11 a major archaeological dig was carried out, to investigate the remains of the original University buildings. There were hopes of finding the remains of Kirk o’ Field, the site of Lord Darnley’s 1567 murder, in the south-west corner of the quad. It is not there, but on the east side archaeologists did find the chemical stone of the famous 18th century chemistry professor Joseph Black, much to the alarm of the University’s health and safety department.

That was the prelude to the remodeling of the quad to make it once again a place of collegiality rather than a car park.

Perhaps even more important is the work about to start on the refurbishment of the School of Law, on the north side of the quad. This includes a substantial remodelling of the library, with new octagonal book stacks, taking their cue from the old anatomy theatre at the west end of building.

The School of Law is the only academic school still based in Old College and it is in roughly the position allocated to it by Robert Adam in 1789. That presence is one of the University, the Scottish Judiciary, the Faculty of Advocates and the Court of the Lord Lyon were among those in the procession. It began at Parliament Square and continued along George IV Bridge and Chambers Street, before arriving at the main entrance to Old College.

The event culminated in the unveiling of an engraved flagstone commemorating the 225th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. The forthcoming redevelopment of Edinburgh Law School was also announced, and a fundraising campaign launched. Work will begin early in 2015 and is expected to last five years.
The University of Edinburgh is one of the founding institutions that created the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh herbarium – a globally important collection of plant specimens that today includes nearly two-thirds of the world's species. Edinburgh botanists helped create this unique resource and now continue its pioneering work.

Silke Currie opens the cabinet doors.

For at least 500 years, the ambition to study biodiversity has taken botanists on expeditions to collect and preserve plants. Their dried discoveries are stored in herbaria, systematically organised plant collections that are used for scientific research.

"[A herbarium] is a dictionary, an encyclopaedia. It's all those things in one," says University of Edinburgh PhD student Alan Elliott, who works at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) herbarium. "As well as having all the specimens, you have got the experts here as well. It is very much living."

With more than 3 million dried specimens, the RBGE herbarium has nearly two-thirds of the world's flora species, making it a globally important research facility. Scientists travel to Edinburgh from across the world to study its contents, and specimens are sent out to countries far and wide. Every week new species are discovered among its plants, both the historical specimens and those collected recently. Specimens are also used for DNA research, including evolutionary studies, and RBGE scientists are among those pioneering new DNA sequencing methods.

"We are a very active, large international herbarium," says curator Dr David Harris. "There is an active number of people who study the plants based here, people coming in and specimens being requested."

In 2014, the RBGE herbarium celebrated 50 years in its current, purpose-built home on Inverleith Row. Its origin, however, dates back to 1840, when the collections of the University of Edinburgh and the Botanical Society of Edinburgh were combined. Modern herbaria, which typically combine several collections previously held by private individuals, are an invention of the 19th century.

The RBGE herbarium has been continually growing ever since its creation. Over the years, numerous private collections and permanent loans from other British universities have been added, including historic collections from George Forrest, John Hutton Ballfour and George Walker Arnott. The latter includes specimens collected by Charles Darwen, who studied at the University of Edinburgh between 1825 and 1827, during his Beagle voyage. Collections created since the early 20th century have been mostly acquired by RBGE staff and reflect modern research interests. Around 11,000 specimens are added to the collection each year.

One of RBGE's most distinguished plant collectors was Peter Huland Davis (1918–1992), who was both a student and a professor at the University of Edinburgh. His monumental lifetime achievement is the Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands, a 10-volume book series, describing the entire plant world of its title. Davis took part in numerous field trips around the world and went on at least 10 expeditions to Turkey, resulting in an outstanding collection of Turkish plants at the RBGE herbarium.

Celebrated for his extraordinary achievements, he received a plethora of awards, including the Royal Society of Edinburgh Neil Medal, the Gold Medal of the Linnean Society and the Certificate of Merit from the Turkish Minister of State.

Two of Davis’ fellow travellers, the internationally renowned botanists Ian Hedge (Botany 1955) and Dr James Ratter, still work at RBGE today.

“Peter was a great botanist,” Mr Hedge says. “Over his life time, he collected more than 70,000 specimens, which in a global context is enormous.”

Davis's passion for plants was evoked by an apprenticeship at Ingwersen's Alpine Plant Nursery in East Grinstead, West Sussex, in 1937, at the age of 19. The following year, he went on a self-initiated amateur expedition to western Anatolia, Turkey, to explore the local flora. Deeply fascinated by the countryside and plant diversity, Davis decided to become a botanist. He committed to an enormous undertaking: to collect and describe the entire native plant life of Turkey.

The outbreak of the Second World War put his plans on hold and he served in the armed forces until 1945, but immediately after the war he took the first step towards his dream of becoming a plant collector. He joined the University of Edinburgh to study botany and graduated with first class honours in 1949. The University appointed him lecturer in botany, even before completion of his PhD on the Taxonomy of Middle East Flora in 1952. Moving through the academic ranks, he eventually held a Personal Chair in Plant Taxonomy from 1979.

Supported by six research assistants, Davis and his collaborators completed the Flora of Turkey over 20 years. "Part of its success was in the assistants he had," Dr Ratter remembers. "The first two were absolutely exceptional – James Cullen and Mark Coode. They did a magnificent job, though with a considerable amount of arguing with Peter! He tended to have rather whole different perspective on your research."

Davis’s colleagues have fond memories. “He had a considerable
Both Mr Hedge and Dr Ratter also recall that Davis was a challenging character. “He was an impatient man, making all sorts of performances.” Dr Ratter says.

“With a much better understanding about what excites you as an artist. The process of gathering plants is all about portrayimg plants,” Silke Currie says. “We work in different ways in different times as well as in different environments. [The project] will be more interested in the effects of light and form.”

Robert McNeill says. “I’m very interested in light, and the way the plant is engulfed in light. I like to explore the possibilities of light and shade in terms of shadows, whether they interface with the flow of a particular leaf or stem, and explore the possibilities of showing the form and how the light interplays with it.”

FS: [My paintings] differ from traditional botanical art in that they have a different viewpoint and the scale may be different. They are totally unexpected in terms of what people would have as a preconceived idea of botanical art.

SC: Could you describe your approaches to botanical art?

FS: We’ll be working through the seasons, recording plants at different times as well as in different environments. [The project] will take notice of the traditional way of working in botanical art in so it will record all aspects of the plant. The herbarium will be interesting to see in terms of research. We intend to make a film, do drawings, and paintings and documenting notes, take lots of photographs and [will] work at the herbarium. We are really excited about it. We are not going to be working on the same piece of work, but we’ll be working in similar environments. I may be more interested in aspects of colour, scale or structure, whereas Robert might be more interested in the effects of light and form.

RMcN: We have ideas about how the [project] will be shown. We want to show the process of gathering the information and recording it, as well as having some final pieces of work. We want to get away from the traditional ways of showing.

FS: We’ve had a little experiment and want another expedition. We made lots of drawings in the field and measurements and we took some films. It was great to look back at the films. The viewer can relate to the films. It was great to look back at the films. The viewer can relate to them and understand the artistic process. We are really interested in the ways of showing and documenting the plants and the information from the field work.

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THOUGHT WITHOUT LEARNING IS PERILOUS*

The University of Edinburgh has a uniquely strong relationship with China. Ed McCracken explores the continuing work to deepen mutual understanding between our two cultures.

January is not Edinburgh’s kindest month. After the Christmas lights and Hogmanay fireworks, the season can appear a little grey. Last January, however, the University’s Old College quadrangle held the winter gloom at bay thanks to a uniquely Chinese intervention.

More than 70 lanterns in the shape of China’s famous Terracotta Warriors illuminated the quad. Standing in formation and most measuring more than two metres high, the figures cast yellow, blue, green and red light onto Old College’s walls. Designed by artist Xia Nan for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the exhibition was a pictorial history of China, from the republican 1930s to the ever-present Little Red Book and beaming face of Chairman Mao after the Communist Party’s triumph in the 1940s. “When we think about propaganda posters we have a very clear image of things like the Cultural Revolution posters, which are very stereotyped and violent,” says Professor Gentsz. “But there is a broad range and diversity of posters, which is why we put this exhibition on.”

Events such as the hugely successful exhibition of modern Chinese poster art in 20th century China. The Edinburgh exhibition was a pictorial history of a tumultuous age, from glamorous women advertising perfume in the republican 1930s to the ever-present Little Red Book and beaming face of Chairman Mao after the Communist Party’s triumph in the 1940s. “When we think about propaganda posters we have a very clear image of things like the Cultural Revolution posters, which are very stereotyped and violent,” says Professor Gentsz. “But there is a broad range and diversity of posters, which is why we put this exhibition on.”

Nearly 160 years after Huang Kuan made his arduous trip to Scotland, the University is home to more than 2,000 Chinese students. In 2013-14, more students joined the University from China than from the USA.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland was opened in 2007 at Arden House, next to the Pollock Halls student accommodation. It is one of more than 500 Confucius Institutes across the world, established by Hanban, the Chinese government department responsible for promoting Chinese culture and language overseas. It has been named as among the best such Institutes in the world six times since its establishment.

The images came from the Propaganda Poster Art Centre in Shanghai. Once an underground gallery, the centre is now partially funded by the Chinese government. Low cost and accessibility made posters a ubiquitous art form in the 20th century China. The Edinburgh exhibition was a pictorial history of a tumultuous age, from glamorous women advertising perfume in the republican 1930s to the ever-present Little Red Book and beaming face of Chairman Mao after the Communist Party’s triumph in the 1940s. “When we think about propaganda posters we have a very clear image of things like the Cultural Revolution posters, which are very stereotyped and violent,” says Professor Gentsz. “But there is a broad range and diversity of posters, which is why we put this exhibition on.”

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Nearly 160 years after Huang Kuan made his arduous trip to Scotland, the University is home to more than 2,000 Chinese students. In 2013-14, more students joined the University from China than from the USA.
I had survived, and I owed it to us both to give this a second chance.

Jamie Andrew, like many climbers, was prevented from climbing the Matterhorn in the summer of 2004 by the weather. The pyramid-like mountain on the Swiss-Italian border remained white throughout August, covered in snow and ice, when normally it would be mostly bare rock.

Mr Andrew, no doubt like many climbers, made the best of the situation. He climbed the nearby Weissemse, which at 4023m is itself an impressive mountain.

The story so far is nothing unique. But Jamie Andrew is not like other climbers. He has no feet, and no hands. All four were amputated after a climbing accident 15 years ago that left his close friend and climbing partner dead and Mr Andrew severely frostbitten.

In January 1999 Mr Andrew and Jamie Fisher [BSc Geography 1994], both experienced mountaineers, took time out from a skiing holiday with a group of friends to climb the North Face of Les Droites in the Mont Blanc mountain range. As they completed their ascent, an unexpected storm blew in that was to pin them to a knife-edge ridge of rock for five days. The helicopter rescue that eventually plucked the pair from the mountain was one of the most daring and dramatic in Alpine history and made headlines around the world. But it came too late for Mr Fisher, and only just in time for Mr Andrew.

The disaster of early 1999 however, became for Mr Andrew the beginning of a remarkable journey, in which he came to terms with the loss of a close friend and the loss of his limbs. Today he is again a mountaineer, who has raised many thousands of pounds for charity. He is also a motivational speaker who travels the world with a story that has a universal message about overcoming challenges.

He traces the turning point in the aftermath of the accident to a moment in hospital, soon after his amputations. "I promised myself that this was the low point of my life, and every day I was going to improve somehow."

In his award-winning book, Life and Limb, published in 2004, Mr Andrew recounts the process of tackling the everyday challenges of being a quadruple amputee. From such as feeding himself – the solution he says. Mr Andrew married Anna Wyatt in 2000, and the couple have three children.

Having known Mr Andrew since before his accident, Ms Wyatt has always understood the draw of the mountains, but Mr Andrew is clear that he is not putting himself in the path of danger with his ongoing adventures. "Mountaineers are good risk managers," he says. "My ultimate aim is not to get to the top of the mountain: my ultimate aim is to get back down safely again. Now that I'm married with kids, I draw that line of acceptable risk lower than I used to."

Growing up in Glasgow, Mr Andrew chose the University of Edinburgh partly because of its well-known mountaineering club, of which he and Jamie Fisher both held the office of President. "That's when my climbing really took off," he says.

After an engineering degree, he enjoyed a successful career in industrial rope access, helping the likes of electricians and painters do their work in dramatic settings. "It's very exciting," he says. "There are no words to describe what it's like to be hanging off the Forth Bridge, or off an oil rig in the North Sea, or off Edinburgh Castle."

The thrill is fresh in his voice. So does he yearn for both professional and climbing ambitions that were taken from him in 1999? His answer is arresting.

"You could offer me my hands and feet back right now and I would say no without hesitation. My life is complete the way it is. I'm not searching for something that I've lost. I've come to terms with it."

I owed it to us both to give this a second chance.
HAMIL SH LONG

BSC CHEMISTRY 1963,
PHD CHEMISTRY 1966

"Studying at Edinburgh was hard work but enjoyable. Notable experiences included running the Charles Car Competition, canoeing down the Tweed from Stobo to Berwick and learning judo and fencing.

On the academic side, meeting and dining with Max Perutz and Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin (both Nobel prize-winners) was a highlight, thanks to my wonderful PhD supervisor, Dr Marjorie Harding.

Summer jobs included working as one-woman/bauman on a little cruise ship (in reality a converted tug). The Second Svable. This involved cruises to all the islands in the Forth and to the Forth Road Bridge, including the day it opened.

My PhD was gained in the X-ray crystallography department. There was no computer and at first punched cards had to be taken to Glasgow University for processing on its primitive computer, DEUCE.

Later we had access to the ATLAS computers in Manchester and Harwell. This involved sitting in Bucieh Place in the evenings, punching out programs and data on seven-hole tape on flexiators and posting it to the appropriate organisation. Results came back four days later – usually with 'parity errors'!

Through ChemSoc I had my first real game of golf and learned to skittle at the Sheep Heid Inn.

I taught in East Lothian for a number of years until I was appointed to the Scottish Examination Board as an Assistant Examination Officer in 1973. There followed a number of posts, culminating in my period as Chief Executive from 1990 until the government wound up the SEB in 1997.

I was, for a number of years, treasurer and membership secretary for the International Association for Educational Assessment. This gave wonderful opportunities to build a global network of organisations, and involved travel, for example to Africa, China, India and the Antipodes.

Since retirement I have taken up various hobbies, the most rewarding of which have been learning to play the clarhach and church bell ringing. The golf, alas, has not improved.

There is no doubt that my studies at Edinburgh opened up a world of opportunity for which I am truly grateful."

ANDREA GARDINER

MBCHB MEDICINE 2000

"I chose Edinburgh because I love Scotland, and it has an excellent reputation for teaching medicine. I had a wonderful few years in the city. It is such a unique, ancient city with many quaint haunts.

Being a country girl I enjoyed the fact it is not too big, and the friendliness of the people I met there.

I volunteered with the North Lother Parish Church Girls’ Brigade, which enabled me to mix with and get to know some Edinburgh natives (not just students). I remain firmly in touch with my flatmates from student days, who have become life-long friends.

After leaving University I completed GP training in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Two years in Shetland were a particular highlight. I loved the people and the life there.

In 2005 I set off for Ecuador, where I have been working for charity ever since. We set up Project Ecuador: a charity based in Scotland. I work in a village health centre, and run a child sponsorship scheme and a craft project. My Ecuadorian husband builds houses for the poor.

I love helping children to go to school so that they can access some of the wonderful opportunities my world-class education has brought me. Maybe one day one of our graduates will have the chance to visit the marvellous city of Edinburgh!

I have written my story in a memoir, Guinea Pig For Breakfast [Grosvenor House 2012]."
SNAPSHOT

BUILDING MEMORIES

The University’s buildings are at the heart of the architectural heritage for which the city of Edinburgh is famous. For those who have studied at the University and spent time moving among its buildings, both ancient and modern, the impact on the city’s environment and skyline is clear. Recent and planned major refurbishments, as well as investment in new construction projects, reflect the University’s ambitious approach to its estate as the needs of students and staff evolve. The photographs on these pages focus on the aesthetic richness of the Central Area campus, casting familiar locations in a new light and taking an unexpected perspective on more recent additions.

01 A sculpture on the Informatics Forum commemorates Jim Haynes’ Paperback Bookshop that once occupied the site, which was signposted by a rhino’s head. 
02 The Business School seen from 50 George Square, the new home of the School of Literatures, Languages & Cultures. 
03 Part of the Chrystal Macmillan Building reflected in a window of 36 George Square. 
04 The Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability at 9 Hope Park Square. 
05 The Hugh Robson Building. 
06 The David Hume Tower. 
07 Familiar finger posts. 
08 Stonework in the entrance to the Old Medical School, Teviot Place. 
09 St Albert’s Catholic Chaplaincy in George Square won two 2013 Edinburgh Architectural Association Awards, including best use of wood in a building. 
10 The former New North Free Church, which has been home to the student-run Bedlam Theatre since 1980. 
11 A stone balustrade in the Old College Quadrangle, part of a project completed in 2011 that transformed the square in line with plans dating to 1789.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY BOOK

The University is working with Historic Scotland to produce a book showcasing the finest buildings across the University’s campuses, spanning its entire history. The book will include the stories behind the buildings and the people who use them. It is due to be published in 2016.

Photography by Paul Dodds
UNCOVERING EBOLA'S SECRETS

Edinburgh researchers are at the forefront of international efforts to understand the Ebola virus that is causing devastation in West Africa.

Professor Andrew Rambaut (BSc Zoology 1991) and PhD student Gyta Dudas, photographed, (BSc Biological Sciences 2011), have helped analyse genome sequences of viruses from the current outbreak. Working with colleagues in the US, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the phylogeneticists helped analyse 99 Ebola genomes from 78 patients in Sierra Leone.

They discovered that the Ebola virus in West Africa arrived there from Central Africa some time in the past decade and made a single species jump from an animal – probably a bat – to a human.

It was this species jump in Guinea that started the current spread from person-to-person, crossing into Sierra Leone in May 2014.

The results were published in the journal Science, and offer a vital insight into a disease about which very little is understood.

BORN: 1982; grew up in Wales
EDUCATION: MSc Informatics 2004
CURRENT HOME: New York City
CURRENT ROLE: Co-founder and Chief Product Officer of FanDuel, the global leader in daily fantasy sports
FAVOURITE READ: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey
FAVOURITE LISTENING: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey
CURRENT ROLE: Co-founder and Chief Product Officer of FanDuel, the global leader in daily fantasy sports
FAVOURITE VIEWING: “When I was deciding on my dissertation topic I consciously chose something that not only was interesting to me but also could potentially provide employment. I discovered that the connection between creativity and health and wellbeing was something the healthcare sector was beginning to take seriously. I offered the job with Aih a month before graduation, so it paid off.”

TREVOR JONES MA Fine Art 2008

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TREVOR JONES MA Fine Art 2008

BOOKSHELF

Nicola O’Byrne (BA Visual Communication Illustration 2003) has won the Picture Book category of the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize 2014 with her book Open Very Carefully (Nosy Crow). The book, with words by Nick Bringles, was highly commended in the UKLA Book Award and was longlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal.

The second book in a two book deal, Use Your Imagination, was published in August 2014.

Be the First to Like This: New Scottish Poetry is an anthology of diverse work from Scotland’s new generation of poets. It features 40 poets including Clare Aske (MA English Literature 2008), MSc Creative Writing 2009, PhD 2014), Jarrette Ayach (MSc Creative Writing 2009), Aiko Harman (MSc Creative Writing 2009), Dorothy Lawson and Samantha Walton (MSc Fine Art & Painting 2004) and the McCarron Society Art Prize in 2011.

The arts have always featured prominently in our alumni activities. Here we showcase a selection of your recent endeavours.

BORN: 1970, Lavington, British Columbia, Canada
EDUCATION: MA Fine Art 2008
CURRENT HOME: Edinburgh
CURRENT ROLE: Executive Director, Art in Healthcare; exhibiting artist; part-time drawing and painting tutor at Leith School of Art
FAVOURITE READ: BBC News app on my mobile.
FAVOURITE LISTENING: Spotify browse – currently along the lines of Radiohead, Muse, Ed Sheeran, George Ezra
FAVOURITE VIEWING: I can’t wait for the next series of Sherlock.

What most inspires you: My dad. He’s a retired mechanic who worked in the logging industry. He is a born problem solver and to this day he has this calm and unwavering approach to sorting things out.

Greatest influence: Travel has had an enormous influence on me. I’d add my university education as a very close second.

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Edinburgh’s leading chemists both past and present are household names among the scientific community. The likes of Joseph Black are historic giants of the field, and today our researchers and teachers continue to lead the way, both in their science and in public engagement.

JOSEPH BLACK (1728–1799)

Joseph Black was educated at home by his Scottish mother, and began his university studies at Glasgow, moving to Edinburgh to graduate in medicine. In 1755 he outsaw the Philosopher of Edinburgh the experimental approach that became a foundation of a revolution in chemistry. Among Black’s landmark achievements were the invention of the analytical balance, while he was a student, and his discoveries of carbon dioxide and latent heat—the energy needed to melt ice or boil water. Black was a luminary of the Scottish Enlightenment. Adam Smith, the political economist, loved to listen to them talk.

CHEMISTRY IN MOTION

Teaching of chemistry at Edinburgh began more than three centuries ago when Laidh-born James Crawford was appointed to the Chair of Physick and Chymistry in 1713. At that time, chemistry was considered an offshoot of medicine (‘physick’); but notes of Crawford’s lectures show that he was among the early proponents of chemistry being considered a branch of science in its own right. In his first lecture he says he will ‘shew by what methods and upon what principles, I judge a System of Chymie is to be raised, that it may deserve a place among the Sciences’. His appointment and his work, with limited resources, played an important role in the recognition of the subject.

JAMES CRAWFORD [1682–1731]

James Walker oversaw the dramatic expansion of chemistry at Edinburgh—despite his plans being interrupted by the First World War. Walker’s enthusiasm was fired by the teaching of Alexander Crum Brown, for whom he worked as a research assistant after graduating, and whom he succeeded as Chair of Chemistry in 1918. Walker was planning a new home for chemistry when war broke out. During the war Walker and his colleagues undertook exceptionally successful production of TNT for the government. Expansion plans then resumed, resulting eventually in the opening of the laboratories at King’s Buildings in 1924. Walker’s vision included possible future expansion of labs, including a second storey, which has subsequently happened.

ALEXANDER CRUM BROWN (1836–1915)

Alexander Crum Brown’s most prominent legacy is the system of representing chemical compounds in diagrammatic form that is still used today, with atomic symbols enclosed in circles and lines drawn between atoms to represent chemical bonds. Crum Brown grew up in Edinburgh and joined the University as an arts student, before a second degree in medicine. He went on to study chemistry in Germany. He took a lectureship at Edinburgh before being appointed Chair of Chemistry in 1869. He had a lifelong interest in weaving, knitting and knots, and his famous, pioneering model showing the crystal structure of Sodium Chloride, held in the School of Chemistry Collection, is made from knitting needles and balls of wool.

SIR JAMES WALKER (1864–1915)

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CHRISTINA MILLER (1899–2001)

Christina ‘Chris’ Cruickshank Miller was one of the first five women elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1947. In 1950 Miller graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a BSc with special distinction, having won the class medal, and was awarded the Vans Dunlop Scholarship which allowed her to undertake research for her PhD. She worked under Professor Sir James Walker, and went on to produce the first sample of pure phosphorus trisioxide in 1928. Showing it emitted no light, she proved it did not cause the glow of phosphorus. This was described as ‘the greatest advance in knowledge of the topic in the last 20 years’. She was awarded the Keith Prize by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1929.

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CHEMOSOC EST 1875

Edinburgh University Chemistry Society is the oldest chemistry society in the world. Official records date back to 1874, but in preparations for the apparent 60th anniversary of its foundation, it was discovered that a “list of members of the Chemical Society” was drawn up by Joseph Black in 1785. ChemSoc today plays an important role in the life of the School of Chemistry, organising lectures and social and sporting events, and with a membership that includes most staff and students.

LABS NAMED IN HONOUR OF CHRISTINA MILLER

In October 2014 the Chemistry teaching laboratories, which were opened in 2000, were renamed the Christina Miller building. Dr Christina ‘Chrisie’ Miller (1899–2001) studied and worked at the School of Chemistry from 1924 to 1941, and in 1947 was the first female chemist to be elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Her research was highly regarded, but she is most fondly remembered by alumni and colleagues for her commitment to teaching and training future chemists. The building’s naming ceremony was followed by an alumni dinner at the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

ATHENA SWAN GOLD AWARD

The University of Edinburgh’s School of Chemistry became the second academic institution to receive an Athena Swan Gold Award for advancing the careers of women in scientific, technology, mathematics and medicine (STEMM). Also in 2012 Professor Polly Arnold, Crum Brown Chair of Chemistry, won the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and used it to investigate women’s under-representation in STEMM subjects producing a film and book A Chemical Imbalance.

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It might seem easier than ever to track down your old friends, but for all the people you can find online, your old flatmate might not be among them. The University’s Project Postcard comes to the rescue.

Examples of friends who have been put back in touch with each other through Project Postcard include Alan Rowland (BSc 1956) of Edinburgh, who wrote to Michael “Bill” Stonie (BSc 1956), now living in Edmonton, Canada. The two veterinary medicine graduates are now planning a transatlantic reunion.

Mr Stonie writes: “We have now been in email contact – Alan is hoping to visit a former colleague from the Vet School who lives in Saskatoon in the spring. If so, hopefully we will be able to get together.”

Udita Banerjee (MSc Electronics 2013), living in India, has resumed contact with both Yamin Zuo (MSc Electronics 2013), living in China, and Gillian “Gladys” Purves (BEd Physical Education 2012), living in Falkirk, Scotland.

Ms Banerjee says: “Both Yamin and Gladys got their postcards. I think it was a fabulous idea to do this – it really gives meaning to our relationships.”

Ronald Gardner (MA 1956, BSc 1958, PhD 1962), Professor Emeritus at Queensland University of Technology, sought out his old friend Jim Blackie (BSc 1959, MSc 1962).

His postcard had reached its recipient, Professor Gardner writes: “I was truly delighted to receive back an email from Jim Blackie – our first communication in over 50 years. His message included his phone number so I rang him immediately, and had a long and very enjoyable blether.”

HOP TO HAPPINESS

“I studied an MA (Ord) degree with two years of chemistry included. I lived very near King’s Buildings and had enough leisure time to enjoy Edinburgh and its environs. I attended the opening ball at the King’s Buildings Common Room, and also the last graduation ball before the war, at which we were the most glamorous Assembly Rooms.

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Two of our grandchildren also studied at Edinburgh. Donald took a BSc Engineering and Margaret studied MA Geography and then a year of sport management at Cramond. Two of our grandchildren also studied at Edinburgh.

Two of our three children studied at Edinburgh. Donald took a BSc Engineering and Margaret studied MA Geography and then a year of sport management at Cramond. Two of our grandchildren also studied at Edinburgh.

Upon graduation we returned to our respective countries – mine Canada, his the USA – and we decided to keep in touch. We realised this was not conducive to being in a relationship, so Keith moved to Canada in 2004. We got married in 2007 in Santorini, Greece, and in 2012 had a beautiful baby boy, Andreas Kacsuta.

Can you help?

Sadly we have not been able to trace all the intended recipients of the postcards returned to the University. Perhaps you know the whereabouts of one or more of the following alumni and could encourage them to contact us: Eleanor Cornwall (French 1964), Lucy Stronger (French 1959), Thomas Greenwood (Social Anthropology 1959), Caren Robertson (Medicine 1943 & 1957), Aral Marcar (Philosophy 1997), Helen Cameron (Spanish 1996).
I REMEMBER…

LANDMARK

I REMEMBER…

LANDMARK

The Acropolis of Athens, the telescope-shaped Nelson’s Monument; the City Observatory; and the much photographed Dugald Stewart Monument, otherwise known as the pepper pot. Your contributions reflect the varied memories this unique place evokes.

I REMEMBER…

LANDMARK

Julia Weber
MSc Genomics and Pathway Biology 2011

‘Calton Hill takes a very prominent place in my memories of the year I spent studying in Edinburgh. I used to climb up the hill with all the friends who came to visit me. I used to live down at Portobello, my lab was at the Royal Infirmary and regularly danced at the Pleasance. You can see all of these places and the major landmarks like the castle and Holyrood from Calton Hill, so I always saw it as a good place to do the introduction to the city. Today when I come to visit, I usually arrive at Waverley, get out of the train or airport bus, get some food and head up the hill for a picnic before I set out to visit friends and enjoy my time. One memory that stands out from the hundreds of times that I walked up Calton Hill (and past my old office), a race would start up the front of Arthur’s Seat, followed by a mad flight down past Holyrood and back up to Calton Hill again. It has a special place for me as I remember the crazy number of people on the hill and the excitement of the whole thing. We took turns sitting on each other’s shoulders to have a better view of the display and the parade. I have videos and photos from that night and I love how happy everyone looks and how beautiful it was.”

Michael Burton
PhD Astronomy 1987

“As an astronomer, and a graduate from Edinburgh’s astronomy department based at the Royal Observatory, you might think that Calton Hill would have memories for me about astronomy, being where it all started back in the days when Edinburgh was still dark at night, and as the first home of the Royal Observatory. But no, Calton Hill to me brings back memories of running, being both the start and finish of the famous Edinburgh 7 Hills race. The race heads off from Calton to Castle Hill, then Corstorphine, Craiglockhart, a hop over the Brae (Blackford Hill and past my old office), a race through the backstreets to Pollock, and then the lung buster up the direct face of Arthur’s Seat, followed by a mad flight down past Holyrood and back up to Calton Hill again. It has a special place for me as it’s the course record in this race way back in 1984, just before writing up my PhD and wrapping up my three years in Edinburgh.”

Alison Hardie
MA Chinese 1979

“In the 1970s Calton Hill had a reputation as somewhere a bit dodgy (at least in the very unabashed circles in which I moved) Last summer I met up in York with a Chinese artist historian who was about to take his students on a visit to Edinburgh and enthused about the wonderful view from Calton Hill, obviously expecting me to agree. I had to admit, very shamefacedly, that I’d never been up Calton Hill, and promised that I would repair the omission the next time I was in Edinburgh. Later in the summer I was there on a beautiful day and duly kept my promise. The view fully lived up to my Chinese colleague’s rapturous description. I’ll be back!”

Gillian Chu
MA English 2006

“A couple of friends who were studying at Oxford came over for the weekend, and I played host by taking them around Edinburgh for sightseeing. Calton Hill was more of an accidental stop, but its commanding view of the entire city paired with the striking monument kept us lounging around for the entire afternoon, chilling on the turf while watching friendly golden retrievers run by.”

Current evidence suggests that 10-15 per cent of the UK population has dyslexic tendencies.

I started my PhD in 2013 researching strategies to assist dyslexic classical singers, with funding from the Radcliffe Trust, which supports music education. This year I was lucky enough to receive a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship. I will travel to Finland, Switzerland, Hungary, Japan, the USA and Canada to research the music methods of Kodaly, Suzuki, Orff, and Dalcroze, and their capacity to enable dyslexic singers’ self-regulating strategies when rehearsing and performing a classical piece.

Alie Reid is a classical singer and singing teacher who has dyslexia. As part of her PhD studies at the Reid School of Music, she has won a prestigious travel fellowship to research the effectiveness of various music teaching methods for dyslexic students.

I have a wonderful career, despite my dyslexia. Or should that be because of it?

From an early age I encountered difficulties, and many in education told me to stop there and then. But I continued, and succeeded with the help of friends, family and kind teachers.

Recently I attended a course at the University of Edinburgh for dyslexic students. I spoke to a number of students, almost all with harrowing stories of trying to learn music and most ending in disillusionment. A number said they simply couldn’t get to grips with music reading or comprehension and felt it was just too hard a battle.

My research is not only for these people but for the many students I teach and witness struggling endlessly, quietly and in private. They’re actually just a chance to help themselves with clear workable strategies and patience.

I am a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and I have been singing, or training singers, since I was eight. I have toured with opera companies, sung for royalty and performed on BBC television and radio.

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The British Dyslexia Association held a conference focused on music teaching in February 2014, and I am witnessing changes in music education methods as people become more aware of special educational needs, but more must be done to make people aware not only of the difficulties of dyslexic musicians but also how to address them.

Then there was the master singer course at the Kodaly Institute in Hungary, with teachers such as Katalin Halmai and Janos Klezli working with movement and the bel canto technique to fine tune voices, and the Dalcroze masters in Geneva such as Helena Nicolet helping people to connect with their music with enjoyment and real comprehension.

But there are still teachers and repeuters out there who do not believe dyslexia should have any impact on how they teach. So many times I have heard a teacher or singer say, “I can’t help.” I don’t understand; “It’s not my job,” or “It’s too difficult.” I hope with my research to tackle some of these problems and give real help to singers, teachers and all those working in the field. I hope to publish my initial findings in a paper in 2015. I also hope to run workshops and eventually to publish a book.

Alie Reid is keeping a blog of her travels and research, where you can leave comments and contact her. She is available for singing lessons – dyslexic students particularly welcome.

www.dyslexicosopera.com
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

The University held a stimulating debate on the question of independence and devolution in Scotland. Vice-Principal Professor Charles Jeffery gave his research-driven insights into factors that might motivate the "don't knows," thus stimulating a lively debate and comments from Canadian colleagues including discussion of the experiences in Quebec. A very good afternoon was followed by Honorary Graduations in the Art Gallery of Ontario, conferred on Garnett Herman, a bibliophile with a considerable Charles Darwin collection, and Beverly McLachlin, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. A gala dinner was hosted by the University in the TIFF Red Lightbox. There was an additional Honorary Graduate, the well-known author Margaret Atwood, who gave a witty and delightful speech after dinner. The University also signed a formal agreement with the University of Toronto to increase cooperation between two great institutions, both ranked 7 on a recent world ranking of universities.

Your General Council Half-Yearly Meeting was held in the University of Toronto. The Principal gave an account of the international developments in our University, the aspiration to increase overseas students to 50 per cent and the corresponding increase in resources needed to support these students. He outlined new approaches to enhance the student experience and encouraging every student to be a researcher. Professor Steve Hillier, Vice-Principal International, gave a comprehensive account of the international reach of the University, much of it achieved during his tenure. It was a good time to hear how far your University has progressed in international terms, and how much effort your Principal and others have put into that.

Your Standing Committees have concluded their activities for the 2013-14 Session. Your Academic Standing Committee discussed new approaches to enhancing student learning with Professor Ian Finn, Assistant Principal Learning and Development. Your Constitutional Standing Committee completed its work on a private paper, Scotland's Future Constitutional Arrangement, which was sent to the University Council in July. It set out the views of your Business Committee on the issues to be managed with constitutional change. Now that we have a clear majority in favour of remaining in the United Kingdom, we will need to consider the risks in any proposed devolution settlement. The UK Prime Minister and leaders of the other political parties were clear in their commitment to early proposals for further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament, including taxation; and these will impact on the higher education sector.

Your Finance and Services Standing Committee met with the former Director of PR, Sheila Gupta, and discussed the University's commitment to staff development and appraisal and how this relates to the teaching and research arms in the Strategic Plan.

We have welcomed new members to the Committee this session: Philip Mawer, a former Parliamentary Omnibund and Students' Association President; Sarah Morgan, an entrepreneur; Sam Trett, a former Sports Union President; David Houston; and Dorothy Macleod. The Convenor of your Public Affairs Standing Committee, Simon Fairclough, has completed his co-opted term. Mr Fairclough helped the Committee through a period of transition, and I am delighted that Matt McPherson, a former Students' Association President, will be the next Convener. Bruce Rston has left also, after a distinguished time leading the Academic Affairs Standing Committee, and he will be replaced very ably by Stuart Macpherson, a former Postgraduate Dean. We bid farewell after 15 years to Ann Sutherland, the well-known author and Delightful speaker after dinner. She moved to Sky in 2015 becoming its first Head of Comedy. We have no doubt that Lucy's talk will be fascinating.

If you would like to attend the General Council Lunch, please book online by following the link at www.general-council@ed.ac.uk/whats-happening or complete and return the form below no later than Friday 6 February 2015. Tickets at £20 include pre-lunch wine reception and a buffet lunch in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available to purchase.

Please send me _____ tickets (£20 each)
Name: 
Address: 
Postcode: 
Name(s) of guest(s): 
Dietary requirements/preferences: 
Please return 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, Scotland, UK, or alternatively, you may order online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening
Closing date for applications: Friday 6 February 2015.
The following nominations have been received for the election of five members of the Business Committee to serve from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019. The names of the candidates appear in alphabetical order.

**CANDIDATES FOR FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

- **Kirsteen Joan MacGregor**
  Proposed by Charles Patrick Swinson, MBChB 1971
  Seconded by Alan David Gillespie Brown, MBChB 1963

- **Alan McDougall Johnston**
  MBA 1989
  Proposed by Charles Patrick Swinson, MBChB 1971
  Seconded by Matthew Jack McPherson, MA 2011

- **Sophie Elizabeth Marshall**
  MA 2010, MBA 2013
  Proposed by Samuel Joseph Trett
  MA 2011, MBA 2013
  Seconded by Sophie McCallum, MA 2009, MSc 2012

- **Edward Bruce Ritson**
  MBChB 1961, MD 1967
  Proposed by Ann McIntyre Smyth
  BSc 1970, PhD 1974, MPhil
  Seconded by Charles Patrick Swinson, MBChB 1971

- **Formerly consultant and senior lecturer in psychiatry at Edinburgh. Member of Business Committee of General Council 2003-2014. Convener Academic Standing Committee from 2012. This experience revealed the diversity and excellence of the University and highlighted for me the challenge of ensuring that the student experience is personally rewarding and enriching.**

- **It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve on the Business Committee at this time of unprecedented change, expansion and achievement for the University of Edinburgh. A second term would give time to develop and consolidate my work, particularly on international initiatives which support the University’s world-class economic and cultural impact.**

- **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, who are responsible for much of its work, and for Court Assessors.
  - In February 2012 the General Council introduced online voting on a secure website, the Elections channel of the MyEd Alumni Portal, which will be open from Tuesday 6 January 2015 until 1700 GMT Wednesday 12 February 2015. In order to vote you must register via the EASE registration process as explained below by 1700 GMT on Tuesday 10 February 2015 at the latest.
  - Voting Papers are only enclosed where members have specifically requested them previously, no later than 30 November 2014, and should be completed and returned in the enclosed addressed envelope to the Secretary of the General Council.
  - Details of all candidates appear opposite. 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.
  - To be able to vote online you need to be a member of the General Council eligible to vote in this election and registered through EASE as a MyEd Alumni Portal user. Those who registered for previous elections do not need to do so again; simply use the same user name 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 15.Helpline@ed.ac.uk requesting access to MyEd and giving your full name, date of and degree awarded at first graduation from Edinburgh. 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 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. as a MyEd Alumni Portal user.

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AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Results of the Elections for two General Council Assessors to Court and five Members of the General Council Business Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the University of Toronto on Saturday 21 June 2014 (PAPER A)

Matters arising

Report of the Business Committee (PAPER B)

Motion (PAPER C)

Dates of future meetings of the General Council

Notice of forthcoming Elections

Presentation by Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, of the Annual Report to the University

Any other competent business

Adjournment

PRESENT

PAPER A

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ON SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2014 were approved.

PAPER B

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN OLD COLLEGE, EDINBURGH, ON 15 FEBRUARY 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2014 were approved.

PAPER C

MATTERS ARISING

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

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Convener welcomed everyone to Toronto, home to one of the other great universities of the world. He reminded everyone that the General Council took every second summer meeting to a location outside Edinburgh, where it received a welcome from local alumni, with past destinations including London, Paris, Washington DC, Hong Kong and Berlin.

He reminded members of the General Council’s statutory role of enquiring into and offering advice on any matter that may affect the prosperity and well-being of the University. The Business Committee discharged this function through meeting regularly with University staff and students, through the elected General Council Assessors on the University Court, and by reporting back regularly to General Council Half-Yearly Meetings. In recent years the Business Committee had set priorities. This year these focused on supporting the University with improving the quality of teaching, the student experience and research at Edinburgh, sustaining communities within and outside the University, supporting the Development & Alumni Engagement Strategy and reviewing progress on implementation of the University’s Strategic Plan. In particular this past year the Business Committee had also been considering the impact of possible Scottish independence following the referendum in September.

These priorities had been pursued by the four Standing Committees, with Academic Standing Committee following up progress on the student experience with Vice–Principal Sue Rigby, other University staff and the President of the Students’ Association, and the Convener was pleased to report that recent reports on this area with major new initiatives to enhance teaching and learning as well as the wider student experience. The Public Affairs Standing Committee had assisted in the development of a new website which had a more modern look and included a blogging facility to encourage members to participate in General Council Business. He mentioned the challenge of meeting the international ambitions of the University, and invited ideas from members on how best to involve more alumni worldwide in the work of the General Council, as well as to improve communications.

The Constitutional Standing Committee had examined the impacts of possible independence following the referendum later in the year, looking at the opportunities and risks in a very balanced way. A summary statement would be presented to Court on completion, but would not be made public.

The Finance & Services Standing Committee had examined the published Annual Reports & Financial Statements with the Director of Finance and also looked at the capital building programme. It welcomed the University’s investment in improving facilities for teaching, research and student accommodation. The Business Committee had received its usual presentation on the Development Trust’s published accounts and the Convener was pleased to note that donations continued to grow, and he reminded members that they could support needy students by contributing to the various bursary schemes. These were very valuable and enabled many students to attend the University who would not otherwise be able to do so.

The Convener was delighted to report that the recent elections had attracted a good number of candidates, including some who had graduated in the previous 10 years, which was particularly welcome. He concluded by emphasising how important it was for members to support the University in any way they could, especially in times of uncertainty.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

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

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday, 14 February 2015, in 7 Bristo Square, Edinburgh. Any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received at the General Council Office by the 26 November 2014. The following Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 6 June 2015, in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, and any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received at the General Council Office by Wednesday 18 March 2015.

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

There would be elections for two General Council Assessors to Court and five Members of the General Council Business Committee in February, 2015. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office and on the website should be received at the General Council Office by 26 November 2014. The full text of the Convener’s remarks are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

PRESENTATIONS BY PROFESSOR SIR TIMOTHY O’SHEA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, AND PROFESSOR STEVE HILLER, VICE-PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL

Vice-Principal Steve Hiller presented the internationalisation work of the University, which was truly global, meaning it was international in student mix, staff and in impact. Both learning and research needed to be multi- disciplinary and increasingly international. Our University had been international since its foundation for example, the first professors of Medicine had come from Leiden. Currently about 40 per cent of students came from outside the UK. There were very close connections with Canada and across North America, with both institutions and individuals. That very week the University had entered into a formal collaboration with its hosts, the University of Toronto. Having a formal Internationalisation Strategy, with an associated Vice–Principal, under the banner of Edinburgh Global, had been important.

The main focus had been the international student experience, international staff, academic and institutional partnering and global outreach and influence. Communications, especially web-based, were vital. The support of students had also been very helpful, particularly through the Student’s Association, EUSA. Students commenting on the University through social media had also been helpful, albeit sometimes challenging. Outstanding academics such as Professor Peter Higgs and Professor Sir Ian Wilmut had had a huge impact. Alumni also contributed greatly to the University’s profile, for example Sir Chris Hoy, our great Olympian, and Professor Lesley Yellowlees, currently President of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The numbers of taught postgraduates had been increasing, particularly international, which had more than doubled. Online learning had also expanded in both scope and levels of participation, with numbers up fivefold in formal programmes. Global Academies had been highly successful, starting with Global Health, and involving multidisciplinary courses and external partnerships. Other active Academies were Global Development,
**PAPER C**

**MOTION**

Changes to the Publication of Billet within Edit

**BACKGROUND**

The University wishes to change the way Edit is published, with one printed version each year and one electronic magazine version. This is for two reasons. Firstly, there is a significant increase in the circulation of Edit due to the success of the University in increasing graduates and alumni. This has put upward pressure on the cost of Edit, which is compounded by increases in print and mailing costs. Secondly, there is a need to move forward and embrace digital publication and create an excellent electronic magazine.

This has implications for Billet within Edit. It is proposed that Billet within Edit will also have a once yearly printed version, on the same schedule as the current winter Edit and Billet within Edit. This will preserve universal access to the minutes of the General Council Meetings as well as the Election papers and the business papers for the February Half-Yearly Meeting. There will then be an electronic version of Billet in May to be sent out by email to all members for whom we have an email address and which will also be available on the General Council website. In order to continue to service the needs of interested members who do not have access to email and/or internet there will remain the possibility, for at least a certain period, to request a printed version of the summer Billet.

If you feel that it is necessary to have a printed copy of Billet in summer 2015, we would ask you to inform us of this wish. We will then send a printed copy of Billet to you in the summer.

**PAPER D**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Rev Dr Harriet Harris closed the meeting with a benediction.
Reconnect at Alumni Weekend

Friday 5 - Sunday 7 June 2015

Rediscover the bold new thinking and lively debates you experienced at university. Our Alumni Weekend offers an inspiring weekend of talks, lectures, exhibitions and tours. Of course, you’ll also enjoy opportunities to catch up with fellow alumni at events including our ceilidh and Old College Quad tea party.

Find out more at alumniweekend.ed.ac.uk

Ensure you receive regular updates. Send your details to alumni@ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh Innovation
Scottish Inspiration
Global Application