

# Dick Vet News



Newsletter for the Alumni & Friends of  
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, The University of Edinburgh

Issue No.18 Autumn 2007



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## Looking ahead – building our future

Soluis Technologies



Artist's impression of atrium in new teaching building



Artist's impression of Cancer Centre



The special graduation ceremony attended by HRH The Princess Royal

An exciting future for the Dick Vet has been forged in the past year, with plans for a substantial £100 million development at the Easter Bush campus. The proposals will see future students benefit from being based on one campus as the School moves its teaching activities to Easter Bush. A £42 million purpose built teaching facility along with a £55 million research centre and a £3 million cancer centre will serve to strengthen both the academic and research expertise at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

The School's teaching building is due to open in 2010 while the Cancer Centre, which will combine radiotherapy with advanced imaging technologies, is due to open by 2009. It will be ranked as one of the top veterinary cancer centres in the world, with imaging facilities to cater for both large and small animals.

### The special graduation ceremony attended by HRH The Princess Royal

Whilst the Dick Vet is very much looking to the future, the past year has also seen us celebrate our history with a very special alumni homecoming weekend. The weekend marked half a century since the first students graduated with a BVM&S after the University and the Dick Vet joined forces in 1951.

Eleven of the 25 vets who made up the 'class of 1957' joined more than 300 alumni and friends for the weekend in June. Those who came to Edinburgh for the event included former students who had travelled from as far as South Africa, North America and Hong Kong. A special graduation ceremony, involving vets from the Class of 1957, also took place for the School's 109 newly qualified vets and postgraduate students. The ceremony was attended by the School's patron, HRH Princess Royal. The Princess Royal praised the facilities, technology and leading-edge work carried out at the school. She added: "I would underline the international work which has a very far-reaching effect even to this day and builds on the history of the School."

The graduation ceremony also saw Honorary degrees (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery) awarded to alumni Robert Moore, junior vice-president of the Royal College of Veterinary

*Continued on back page*

## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE



This edition of the Dick Vet News features the highlights of our activities, and I hope you will join with us in feeling a great sense of pride in the School. None of these developments would be possible without the great talent of our staff and students, past, present and future, and my mission over the next year is to continue to attract the best to Edinburgh! We are in the middle of an extremely ambitious programme that will transform the face of the vet school. Although we face many challenges in the

changes involved in developing the new School and Research Centres, I am confident we are making vast strides in both maintaining and building upon Edinburgh's strong international standing in veterinary education and research. I am very grateful for the strong support that our Alumni and Friends give to me and my staff. The faith and confidence that many of you have had in the School over the past four years have enabled these plans to succeed, and I hope that you will all feel that you are Partners in our new ventures.

**Professor Elaine Watson**  
Head of School

## Novel posts for Edinburgh

Over the past year we have two new and unique posts at the Dick Vet.

**Susan Rhind** has been appointed to the first Chair of Veterinary Education in the UK, a clear

demonstration of the high value that the Dick Vet places upon excellence and innovation in teaching and learning. On 9 August she received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching from the Duke of Edinburgh in recognition of her innovation and developments in teaching and learning at the Dick Vet. In her response to the award, Susan emphasised the need to acknowledge the changing requirements of the profession and expectations of students by designing a more flexible programme and making appropriate use of information technology. Susan has been Director of Veterinary Teaching since 2003, and is leading a major curriculum review which will increase clinical integration in the early years of the course, as well as developing a 'Virtual Veterinary Practice' and exploring the use of 'Web 2.0' technologies in learning and teaching to keep up with our highly computer-literate students!

**Rachel Whittington** has been appointed Director of Extramural Veterinary Education and is tasked with planning and organising the provision of extramural education, not only for veterinary students but for vets throughout their working lives. She is forming closer links with practices that participate in providing EMS to our students, and will lead the developments in continuing education, liaising with the RCVS in the provision and assessment of modules for the new RCVS Modular Certificates. Many of you met Rachel at the Alumni Weekend. Others may be hearing from Rachel soon!



Susan Rhind receives the Chancellor's Award for teaching from HRH the Duke of Edinburgh



Rachel Whittington, Director of Extramural Veterinary Education

## Six New Veterinary Professors for the Dick!



Eddie Clutton



Brendan Corcoran



Rod Else



Daniëlle Gunn-Moore



Keith Thoday



Jimmy Simpson

We have been delighted that our University has acknowledged the important contribution that clinical excellence makes to advancing the profession, by allowing us to promote six of our top vets to Personal Chairs. Our new Professors are all international veterinary stars, and will join Professors David Argyle, Bruce McGorum and Paddy Dixon in leading advancements in our clinical knowledge.

Personal Chair of Veterinary Anaesthesiology: **Eddie Clutton**  
 Personal Chair of Veterinary Cardiopulmonary Medicine: **Brendan Corcoran**  
 Personal Chair of Diagnostic Veterinary Pathology: **Rod Else**  
 Personal Chair of Feline Medicine: **Daniëlle Gunn-Moore**  
 Personal Chair of Veterinary Dermatology: **Keith Thoday**  
 Personal Chair of Canine Medicine: **Jimmy Simpson**

Readerships have been awarded to **Sarah Cleaveland** and **Mark Eisler**. We congratulate them all.

## The departure of six long-standing members of the School

**Sylvia Shaw** retired after over 40 years working at the Dick Vet in virology teaching and research.

**Rona Hunter**, who joined the Division of Animal Health in January 1984, has retired earlier this year from the Teaching Office at Easter Bush Veterinary Centre where she helped many staff and students over the years.

**Jim Nisbet** joined the Dick Vet in September 2001 as Faculty and then School Administrator. Having served us famously well, he remains within the College and is off to the School of Molecular and Clinical Medicine which is based at the Western General Hospital.

**Michael Cockram**, after years of distinctive teaching in Animal Husbandry has left us to fill a



Jim Nisbet



Michael Cockram



Derek Cuddeford



Colin Stead

Chair in Animal Welfare at the Atlantic Veterinary College of the University of Prince Edward Island.

**Derek Cuddeford**, author of *Equine Nutrition* who penned numerous articles and lectures in this field, has retired from the University after 39 years of service.

**Colin Stead**, orthopaedic surgeon and our Director of Student Affairs, is retiring at the end of this October. Many of them will recall him fondly as the first academic they met, during interviews at Summerhall.

We wish them all well.

## Dick Vet employs resident Pharmacist in a UK first

Students, clinicians and patients are to benefit from a decision at the Dick Vet to employ the first resident pharmacist at a veterinary school in the UK. **Liz Shipley** started working at the Dick Vet in the summer. She will be able to provide students with an insight into how a pharmacy is run as well as advising practising vets on new medications on the market. In addition to offering lectures on the role of the pharmacy, future plans include providing student placements in the pharmacy itself.

Liz said: "As far as I am aware, this is the first time that a UK vet school has employed a resident pharmacist. As well as the student interaction, my role will have an impact in streamlining current dispensing practices at both the small and large animal hospitals and sourcing novel drugs." She added: "The idea is not only to have an input into the students' education but also to allow the vets to spend more time with clients and their animals in the small and large animal hospitals."



Dr Jeremy Bradshaw with Professor Zhong Nanshan

## Dick Vet in China

Edinburgh veterinary students will in September 2008 have the opportunity to study Chinese Veterinary Acupuncture in Beijing. This is due to links formally established since 2003 with China's top veterinary school, China Agricultural University (CAU). **Jeremy Bradshaw**, who visited Beijing again in March, indicated that he was really pleased that our students will have the opportunity to widen their professional training by witnessing, first hand, the way that veterinary medicine is taught and practiced in another part of the world. The Edinburgh-CAU Link Programme already provides PhD studentships each year for CAU students to study in Edinburgh.

More postgraduate information available is at:

[http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/research\\_degrees.htm](http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/research_degrees.htm)

<http://www.mvm.ed.ac.uk/gradschool/masters/masters.htm>

## Horses for Courses – First in Equine Science Masters

The MSc Equine Science programme at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is the first and only to be mounted within an international centre of veterinary excellence.



The R(D)SVS recognises that not everyone is able to undertake a full-time residential MSc programme and consequently efforts are being directed towards developing this highly successful masters degree into an on-line distance learning programme available to high calibre candidates interested in career enhancing education. Online and part-time, this programme will commence in 2008 and is ideal for people who wish to gain a world-class award while maintaining busy professional and personal commitments. This modular and flexible postgraduate course is designed to address the demand for online equine education suitable for working professionals and others with an interest in studying a range of equine disciplines. The programme will be devised by recognised experts in the relevant discipline and is open to students with a biological background; for example a degree in: veterinary science, biological sciences, zoology, animal/equine science, and pharmacology/pharmacy.

Further information on the MSc equine science programme can be found at: <http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk/equinescience/>.

## News from the Veterinary Teaching Organisation



We are embarking on a range of exciting educational projects which we look forward to evaluating and incorporating into our curriculum to achieve the optimum 'Edinburgh blend'!

For example, we are developing resources to help students with specific learning difficulties and this project is beginning this semester. Development of the virtual veterinary practice continues apace encompassing the Virtual Farm, Virtual Clinic and Post Mortem room. Over the last year we have also developed a major new clinical skills and study facility providing students with enhanced opportunities to practice core clinical techniques from the earliest stages of the curriculum.

Another 'first' is a national collaboration with Cambridge and the RVC to develop a pathology 'wiki'. R(D)SVS students **Lizzie Slack** and **Sarah McFarland** have been key members of the project team developing the wiki over the summer months.

## Not 'Poles apart'

In late February this year twenty of our students flew for a long-weekend visit to the Polish city of Wroclaw to meet students from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences.

Many of you may recall that from 1943-1948 the Dick Vet was the academic host to Polish students and staff from the Veterinary Faculty of Warsaw University and the Veterinary Academy of Lwów. The Academy in Lwów relocated to Wroclaw in 1945. In mid March, twenty one Polish students made the return trip to visit our students in Edinburgh. By all accounts much pleasure was had by all and a great deal learned about the excellent facilities available and being built in both veterinary schools. This student exchange helps reinforce our links with the Polish Veterinary



Students from the Wroclaw and Edinburgh vet schools

Schools, and was organised in Edinburgh by Helen Kidd, and in Wroclaw by Kasia Czaja. Milosz Grabski, who transferred from Wroclaw to the Dick Vet very actively contributed to arrangements in both countries.

## Alzheimer's discovered in cats

**Danielle and Frank Gunn-Moore** have discovered that ageing cats can develop a feline form of Alzheimer's disease. Working in collaboration with the Universities of St Andrews, Bristol and California, Danielle and Frank identified a key protein which can build up in the nerve cells of a cat's brain and cause mental deterioration. In humans with Alzheimer's disease, this protein creates 'tangles' inside the nerve cells which inhibit messages being processed by the brain. The team says that the presence of this protein in cats is proof that they too can develop this type of disease.

By carrying out post-mortem examination of cats which have succumbed naturally to the disease, scientists may now be able to uncover vital clues about how the condition develops. This may eventually help scientists to come up with possible treatments.



Twelve year old cat: Cardhu (owned by investigators Daniëlle and Frank Gunn-Moore). He had chronic kidney failure and controlled hypertension (high blood pressure), and showed signs of senility: with inappropriate vocalisation and occasional episodes of disorientation. He was one of the most important factors in prompting this study and for stimulating their personal interest in ageing changes in cats.

## Fat cats give cause for concern

A study by **Danielle Gunn-Moore**, our world-leading feline expert, has shown that 1 in 230 cats in the UK is now diabetic, with overweight cats more than three times likely to suffer from the condition. The research highlighted that being male, neutered, overweight and having reduced exercise among the main risk factors. The number of diabetic cats in the UK is now nearly five times higher than that recorded in a study carried out in the 1970s in the United States.

Danielle said: "The lifestyle of cats, just like their owners, is changing. They are tending to eat too much, gain weight, and take less exercise. Unfortunately, just like people, cats will overeat if

they are offered too much tasty food, particularly if they are bored and have little else to do. While cats would naturally exercise outside, many cats are now housebound – perhaps because they live in a flat or because their owners feel that it is too dangerous to let them out – so they have little to do all day but eat, sleep, and gain weight."

Whereas previously the most common hormone problem in cats was overactive thyroid disease, this has now been overtaken by diabetes. Between 85-95% of diabetic cats suffer from Type 2 diabetes, which is often referred to in humans as maturity onset diabetes and is most commonly seen in older overweight people.



Overweight cat

## New Research Institutes Update – Breaking Ground in Veterinary Research and Training



Artist's impression of the new research institute



Professor David Hume

The new research centre at Easter Bush will comprise the researchers from the Roslin Institute, the Neuropathogenesis Unit, the Scottish Agricultural College, and many of our own researchers from the Dick Vet in a new £55 million building on the site of the old farm, in the heart of the vet school campus.

All the money has now been raised for the building which will house 450 scientists and support staff, and the new Director, **Professor David Hume**, took up his post on 1 May 2007. David is an international authority in genome sciences and has come from the post of Director of the ARC Special Research Centre for Functional and Applied Genomics at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland. Until the institute is built in 2010, David will be running a 'virtual institute'. Elaine Watson said "This is an enormous boost to the School's clinical research efforts, and will significantly aid us in our mission to improve the health and welfare of animals under our care, and also in the wider context of human health from knowledge gained from comparative studies, and in zoonotic diseases".

In close association with developments at Easter Bush, the University is building a £24 million state-of-the-art research building on the King's Buildings campus adjacent to the School of Biological Sciences. This new centre will house a mixture of basic biologists and veterinary researchers from the R(D)SVS' Centre for Infectious Diseases, led by Tony Nash, Professor of Veterinary Pathology. The School's remaining researchers, concentrated in the area of neuroscience, are currently developing a vision document for Edinburgh Neuroscience, led by Peter Brophy, Mary Dick Professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Cell Biology. To place the Dick's research in context, the University of Edinburgh is recognised as being one of the world's top Universities in biomedicine – ranked fourth in Europe, and 13th in the world, which places it in a very strong position in Edinburgh's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

### Something fishy at the Dick Vet



L-R: Professors Randolph Richards, William Dick, Elaine Watson and Jonathan Lamb

Research to investigate infectious diseases such as tuberculosis has been given a boost following an exciting venture between the Dick Vet and Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture. The collaboration between the two universities will also enhance teaching for both undergraduate and postgraduate students at the Dick, with modules being set up in partnership with Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture.

Jonathan Lamb, Chair of Veterinary Clinical Immunology, said: "We will be working with the Institute of Aquaculture to investigate infectious diseases such as tuberculosis in both animals and humans using zebrafish as models. The research will also encompass infections that cause problems in farmed fish. Zebrafish play an

important role in such research because their genetic profile is 80 per cent identical to humans. They also breed extremely well, which assists in studies involving gene manipulation, and research is aided by the fact that they are see through."

Professor Randolph Richards, Director of the Institute of Aquaculture at the University of Stirling, said: "The research will look at mechanisms and pathways that are similar in human, animal and fish diseases. Through this collaboration we hope to shed light on illnesses by furthering our understanding of the development of disease at a molecular level, as well as looking at new ways we can work together in the future."

## Dick Vet staff study the first outbreak of squirrel pox in Scotland

The introduction of the grey squirrel over 200 years ago has almost wiped out the red squirrel in England and Wales, and Scotland is the remaining stronghold for red squirrels in the UK. In addition to competition and habitat fragmentation, a major reason for its disappearance is known to be squirrel pox virus which is carried by greys, which do not develop signs of the disease. When red squirrels are infected however, they develop a fatal disease characterised by severe, crusty skin lesions, especially on the face and paws.

Since the beginning of 2006, **Elsbeth Milne** of the Veterinary Pathology Unit and **Anna Meredith** of the Exotic Animal Service have been carrying out disease surveillance in Scottish red

squirrels, in conjunction with virologists at the Moredun Research Institute. Dead squirrels from all over Scotland are sent in by the public and to date, over 100 post mortem examinations have been carried out. Since May 2007, three cases of squirrel pox have been identified in red squirrels submitted to The Dick from the Lockerbie area, the first outbreak ever recorded in Scotland.

Sadly, this is bad news for the Scottish red squirrels but it is hoped that continued surveillance and habitat management may help safeguard its future. You can help by sending Elspeth or Anna any red squirrel cadavers you find, together with a note of the location, date and any other details. In return, you will receive a full post mortem report.

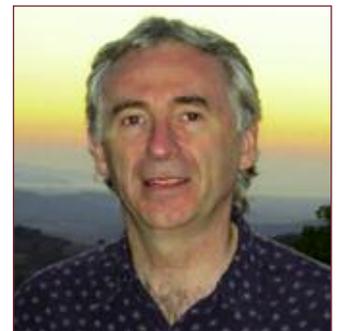


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## Mary Dick Professor and Harry Potter author join forces to combat debilitating disease

**Peter Brophy**, Mary Dick Professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Cell Biology, co-led a major bid for a new centre for research into Multiple Sclerosis. Most of the funding for the £2.5 million project came from the Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland largely through a gift from the Harry Potter author, JK Rowling. The Scottish Multiple Sclerosis research centre will be housed at The Centre for Regenerative Medicine in The Chancellor's Building, the University's Medical School at Little France. Here, scientists and clinicians will collaborate in 'bench to bedside' research which will use the latest techniques to develop therapies for MS.

Peter welcomed the funding announcement, saying: "At the new centre, positioned in the University's Medical School and adjacent to the new research institute and the Royal Infirmary, we will be able to draw together strands of expertise to better understand MS, and to develop new treatments so that we can take advantage of the strong neuroscience base in Edinburgh." Mark Hazelwood, Director of Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland said: "Scotland has the highest rate of MS in the world. This new Centre will help to put Scotland where it should be – at the forefront of the battle against MS. The Centre is the biggest single investment in research ever made by the Society anywhere in the UK."



Professor Peter Brophy

## Dick Vet Researchers find cure for pain

**Sue Fleetwood-Walker**, a leading neuroscientist in the School, has found that chemicals with the same properties as mint oil have a dramatic effect in relieving pain when applied in small doses close to the skin. This new treatment, inspired by ancient Greek and Chinese remedies, could offer pain relief to millions of patients with arthritis and nerve damage. Her study found that mint oil and related chemical compounds are

able to act as pain killers by binding with a protein (known as the TRPM8 receptor) that is found in certain nerve cells in the skin. The cooling properties of the compound were then able to inhibit pain messages sent to the brain.

Sue hopes that the research, funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council and published in the journal, *Current Biology*, will shortly progress to trials in our clinics.

## Dick Vet leads bid to combat avian 'flu



Close human-avian contact.  
Picture by Mark Bronsvort  
in the Cameroon.

**Tony Nash**, Professor of Veterinary Pathology, has led a successful bid for a unique centre of excellence, placing Scotland at the forefront of global efforts to prevent an avian 'flu pandemic. The new Interdisciplinary Centre for Human and Avian Influenza Research (ICHAIR), which has received £2 million from the Scottish Funding Council and £2.3 million from the collaborating universities, officially opened on 1 September 2007.

The new research hub – the first of its kind in Britain – draws together experts from the Dick Vet, Glasgow and St Andrews who will aim to develop new therapeutic agents to combat this growing public health threat. As well as seeking to tackle avian 'flu, leading biologists, virologists and epidemiologists will work together on new treatments for human 'flu. The centre opens as the threat of a pandemic grows: millions of birds have been slaughtered worldwide and there have been over 170 human deaths from the H5N1

strain. In at least one case, there is enough evidence to show that human-to-human transmission has already occurred. The risk is particularly severe in developing countries where there tends to be close contact between animals and humans.

Tony Nash said "Our ultimate hope is that we can achieve new ways of predicting and controlling major 'flu outbreaks, as well as discovering new therapies that quickly translate into products for humans and animals. It is not a question of if it happens but when it happens. There were three 'flu pandemics in the 20th century, and we are somewhat overdue for another. Knowledge gained from studying the 'flu virus may also have relevance to other virus infections. In particular, the centre could broaden its remit to include other viruses that, through climate change, are extending their range – presenting a significant threat to human and animal life across the world."

## Dick Vet leads online education in International Animal Health



A new MSc Course in International Animal Health delivered by distance learning to postgraduate students located all over the world has recently marked the successful completion of the first year of delivery, and we are delighted to welcome a second cohort of online students to the virtual learning community. The Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (CTVM), part of the R(D)SVS, has run world-acclaimed Masters courses in Tropical Animal Health and Production for more than 20 years, providing specialist postgraduate veterinary training for international students particularly from the developing world.

British development aid support for residential international students was eventually withdrawn. However, as demand for places remained strong, the new course was recently introduced using the latest online, distance e-learning methods, for which the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2006. A two week summer school in Uganda (*see left*) provides students and teaching staff with an opportunity for face-to-face interaction. Development of the new course was strongly supported by the Principal and the CMVM Learning Technology Section, and so far 30 students have received awards from the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission.

For further information contact the course director, Dr Mark Eisler ([mark.eisler@ed.ac.uk](mailto:mark.eisler@ed.ac.uk)), or visit [www.internationalanimalhealth.ed.ac.uk](http://www.internationalanimalhealth.ed.ac.uk).



Above: Bike Race in Tanzania to celebrate World Rabies Day  
 Left: Vaccination of dogs in Tanzania

## Dick Vet aids international efforts to eliminate rabies

One person dies every 10 minutes from the horrendous disease, rabies. It is estimated that children account for between 30 and 50 per cent of the 55,000 annual deaths from rabies. **Sarah Cleaveland**, who works at the School and is on the board of the Alliance for Rabies Control, said: "Very few people in Western Europe will ever die from rabies, but for those affected in developing countries it can cause immeasurable suffering. Children are most at risk of being bitten by a rabid animal and in sub-Saharan Africa it can cost 40 per cent of an annual income to pay for post exposure vaccination and hospital visits. It's estimated that in Africa and Asia almost eight million people a year receive costly post-exposure prophylaxis yet the cost to eradicate rabies is comparatively small compared to other healthcare programmes." Sarah has shown that the vaccination coverage needed to reach 70 per cent of the dog population to control rabies can be done through village-based campaigns and community-based workers. The Dick Vet is currently working with Intervet on a programme to eliminate rabies in the Serengeti region of east Africa. The programme follows on from research carried out by the School, which found that, across diverse wildlife species, all animals infected with rabies in the Serengeti had a variant of the virus originating from the domestic dog. As well as the cost to human health, rabies poses a major and immediate threat to several of the world's most endangered wildlife populations. There are just 500 Ethiopian wolves left in the world and, in parts of East Africa, the endangered African wild dog has become locally extinct as a result of rabies.

Sarah believes that rabies could be eliminated globally within a decade with a concerted effort to stem the spread of the disease



World Rabies Day in Edinburgh

through such intensive vaccination programmes. However, the need for such schemes where there is a high prevalence of rabies – such as Africa and Asia - has tended to be overlooked even though it would cost far less than other healthcare programmes in the developing world. Staff at the Dick Vet have played an active role in raising awareness of rabies – both through research and public understanding and were very much behind the setting up of the Alliance for Rabies Control, a Scottish Registered Charity.

As a result, this year saw the first ever World Rabies Day take place in September – spearheaded by the Alliance for Rabies Control, World Animal Health Organization, and the US Centers for Disease Control. Throughout the month, events including school awareness programmes, public lectures and training in rabies control took place in more than 45 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, North America and Europe. Staff and students at the Dick Vet also organised a 5.5km fun in Edinburgh around Arthur's Seat, with each metre representing 10 people who die of rabies every year.



The Class of 1957 with  
Professor Elaine Watson

## Celebrating 50 Years

Fifty years ago, a group of excited young students were awarded the first BVM&S Degrees by the University of Edinburgh.' On 22 June this year, eleven of these graduates, from a total class size of 25, came back to Edinburgh from as far away as Australia and California, to celebrate this milestone. They were joined by over 300 of their fellow alumni and friends spanning 64 years of graduating classes (1942–2006) who had returned to participate in the Homecoming Weekend celebrations.

The weekend kicked off with a special graduation ceremony, attended by the School's Patron, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. It seemed only fitting that the 1957 graduates be asked to join the platform party, which they did with dignity and pride.

The rest of the weekend was jam-packed with events; a Royal reception, a superb William Dick Lecture presented by Professor Steve Jones, a Civic Reception, a CPD day, tours of the

veterinary hospitals, a trip to Edinburgh Zoo, the Novartis Gala Dinner and, finally, the Pfizer Bucks Fizz Brunch on the Sunday.

Everyone had their own highlights, but I think it is fair to say that it was a weekend filled with laughter, joy, great memories, and a lot of pride. More than a few toasts were made to 'absent friends', old friendships rekindled and new friendships forged.

We give special thanks to all our sponsors: The City of Edinburgh Council, Novartis Animal Health, Pfizer Animal Health, Janssen Animal Health, Banfield, Hills, AT Veterinary Systems, and Intervet; and to all our alumni who took the time and made the effort to come back to the Dick Vet for a truly memorable homecoming weekend. Please keep in touch!

Many more photographs of the weekend can be viewed at [www.edinburghcampaign.com](http://www.edinburghcampaign.com). Just click on Gallery in the Alumni Network section.

*Thanks to the following sponsors of the Homecoming Weekend:*



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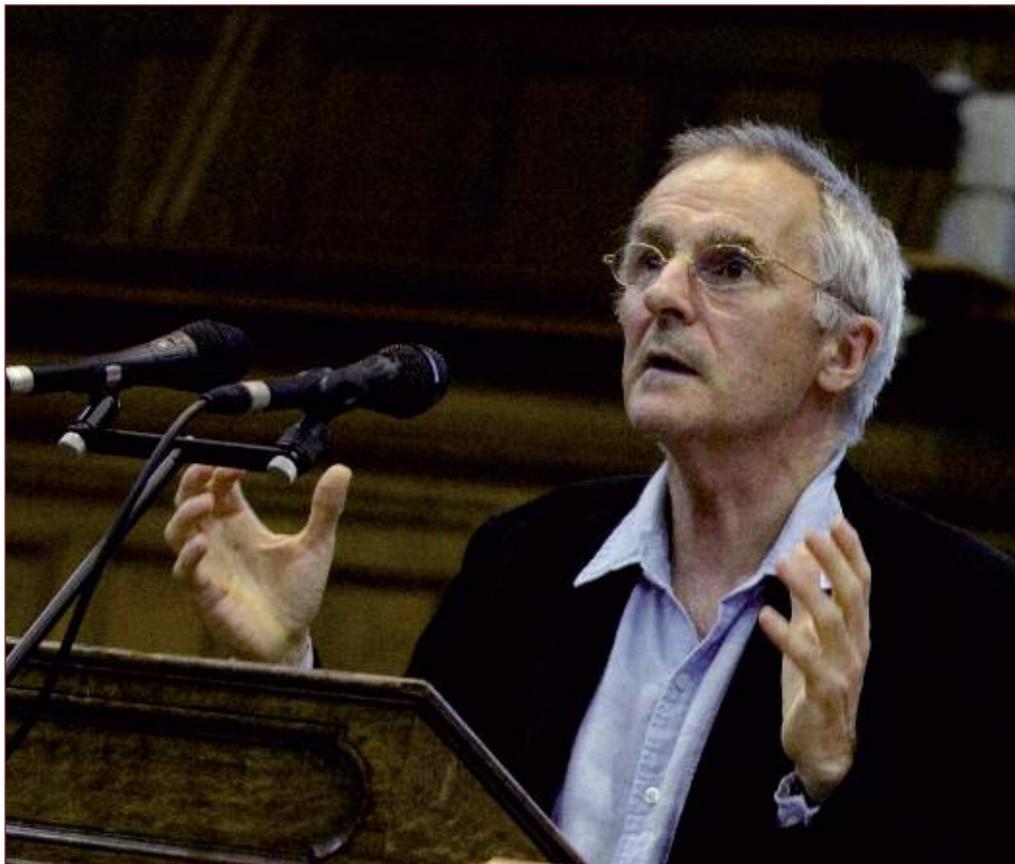
The Princess Royal presents the William Dick Medal to Louisa Ing, 50 years after the first medal was awarded to Brian Ingam, Class of 1957.



The 1957 graduates are presented to the Princess Royal after the ceremony.

### The William Dick Memorial Lecture and Civic Reception

Professor Steve Jones presents the 2007 William Dick Memorial Lecture entitled 'Is Man Just Another Animal?'



Professor Brendan Corcoran talks with Professor Steve Jones



The Civic reception was hosted by Councillor Rob Munn, Deputy Lord Provost.



With all the formalities of the day finished, the Class of 1957 let their hair down with a dinner at Abden House.

### The Novartis Gala Dinner

Dinner, drinks and dancing at Dynamic Earth, a fantastic venue in stunning surroundings. Special thanks to Novartis Animal Health for helping to make it all possible.



The Dick Vet pipers prepare to pipe in the dinner guests.



Neil Robertson, Fiona Anderson, Peter Wells and George Gunn from Novartis



...And a good time was had by all!





### The Pfizer Bucks Fizz Brunch

A nostalgic morning of tours, lectures and, of course, just a few glasses of fizz. Many thanks to Pfizer Animal Health for sponsoring this event.

The pipers are at it again – this time with the Dick Vet 'dittie' in the old Vet Anatomy Lecture Theatre.



Delight at seeing a familiar name on our Life Friend plaques.



Alastair Macdonald and Colin Warwick take alumni through the history of the Dick Vet.



She hasn't changed a bit in 25 years.



A well-deserved cup of tea after a hectic weekend.

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**For Gifts and Bequests**

Beverley Montgomery  
0131-650 6149

## Class Fundraising

Class fundraising is a great way for you and your fellow alumni to get together and make a real difference to the Dick Vet. As you know, the Vet School has ambitious plans to raise £9 million by 2010 to build a new state-of-the-art teaching facility. The University will be approaching its veterinary alumni by phone and by mail to ask them to make a gift to the Veterinary Graduate Fund. These gifts will be acknowledged individually and will also be added to a donation total for each year group. If everyone from your

class makes a donation, at a level at which they feel comfortable, then collectively you can make a substantial gift to what otherwise might seem like an unattainable goal. It's worth mentioning that anyone who donates £500 or more automatically becomes a Life Friend of the Dick Vet.

It is hoped that class fundraising can raise £250,000 towards the construction of the new school. We already have some active alumni who are out there blazing a trail.

### Dr Ernie Logan and the Ulster Room

Many of you will know **Dr Ernie Logan** (right) from the class of 1959. He is currently organising a fundraising project with graduates and friends who have a link to Northern Ireland. His plan is to dedicate a room in the new teaching facility called The Ulster Room.

Dr Logan points out that the first student from Northern Ireland, James King, graduated in 1843. Since then, there has been a close relationship between the 'Dick Vet' and Northern Ireland.

"And with the building of the new school this is an ideal opportunity to recognise it officially," Dr Logan added.

To date, £10,000 has been raised for the Ulster Room and Dr Logan is optimistic that more can be raised.

"I really hope that everyone with links to Ulster gets behind this project. We can really make a difference to our *Alma Mater* and show our appreciation for the education and experience we gained."



*For further information about ways in which you can support the Vet School, please contact:*

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### Michael Gourley and the Class of 1977

**Michael Gourley** and his fellow 1977 graduates are already organising a class gift to support the School's current fundraising priorities.

"Our year has a lot to be grateful to The Dick Vet for, in sending us out into a profession that has provided so much more than just a living for us and our families. Whenever we've been asked where we graduated, we've always felt proud that we're able to answer, 'Edinburgh' and that feeling has not diminished as the years have rolled, seemingly very quickly, by," Mr Gourley said.

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Surgeons, and Dr Freda Scott-Park, senior vice-president of the British Veterinary Association, in recognition of their work in veterinary medicine.

In the evening Professor Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at UCL – presented the

2007 William Dick Lecture to an audience of more than 900. Alumni also attended a Civic Reception, buck's fizz breakfast, and gala dinner.

*(For pictures of the event please see page 10.)*