



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

SUMMER 09

edit

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE INCLUDING BILLET & GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

The Origin of Genius

Charles Darwin's
Edinburgh connection

ALSO INSIDE

Edinburgh's innovative
teaching leads the way

Edit meets the winners
of the Principal's Medal





The University of Edinburgh



Forever a part of it

Your links with Edinburgh don't end when you leave the University - you're an Edinburgh alumnus for life - so stay in touch and reap the benefits!

The Alumni Card

Have you got your new-look Alumni Card yet? As an alumnus you are eligible for the new card, which replaces the Edinburgh Passport and allows discounted access to many of the University's outstanding facilities. The card also entitles you to a new range of discounts with partner organisations worldwide. Sign up at www.ed.ac.uk/alumni.



What will it do for you?

- Receive 15% off hire of University venues, accommodation and catering for weddings, parties, meetings and, of course, reunions!
- Enjoy a 25% discount at the University's Centre for Sports and Exercise – one of the Scotsman's top five gyms in Scotland – which offers you a wealth of fitness classes, training, gym support, climbing facilities, a circuit gym, playing fields, an outdoor activity centre on Loch Tay and much more!
- Enjoy free access to the University's many libraries and their printed collections – as well as 50% off borrowing rights.
- Receive a 20% discount on all books published by Edinburgh University Press.
- Get discounted rates with our partners in the hotel and leisure industry all over the world. We will be adding to our list of partners on a regular basis, so make sure you visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni for the latest offers.

Log on to www.ed.ac.uk/alumni and discover the lifelong advantages of being a University of Edinburgh alumnus!

Contents



Features

10 Reputation Reinforced

Edinburgh's outstanding Research Assessment Exercise results explained

12 The Origin of Genius

How studying at Edinburgh helped shape the thinking of Charles Darwin

14 Next Generation Education

A variety of teaching innovations are winning the approval of Edinburgh students

16 Lending a Helping Hand

We meet the joint winners of the inaugural Principal's Medal award

Regulars

02 University News

18 Alumni Network

22 World Service

24 My Edinburgh NEW!

26 Then & Now NEW!

28 Talbot Rice Gallery

29 Billet

Foreword

In this Summer 2009 edition, we chat to friends and fellow alumni from all corners of the globe, including the winners of the inaugural Principal's Medal (page 16). We also go behind the scenes as the University celebrates the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, one of our most eminent scholars (page 12), and we showcase our latest teaching innovations (page 14).

With 2009 unfolding as an exciting and busy year, we hope you will stay in touch. As you can see from our new 'My Edinburgh' and 'Then & Now' features (pages 24–27), Edinburgh students, past and present, have some interesting and intriguing stories to tell – we encourage you to share yours.

Young P Dawkins III
Vice-Principal, Development

Publisher Barbara Laing (editor.edit@ed.ac.uk)
Communications and Marketing, The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7–11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE

Design Freight Design 0141 552 5303

Production Cate Mackenzie

Cover Photography Portrait of Charles Robert Darwin (1809–1882), painted by George Richmond in 1840. Science Source/Science Photo Library

Printing J Thomson Colour Printers

Mailing Services bss scotmail

Advertising Enquiries Landmark Publishing Services 0207 692 9292

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the prior written consent of the publishers. *Edit* is printed on environmentally friendly, Forestry Stewardship Council-accredited paper. *Edit*, the University of Edinburgh's magazine, is published twice a year. The views expressed in its columns are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the University.

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

ON THE MOVE? If you have changed address please let us know. Contact Development & Alumni on +44 (0)131 650 2240 or email alumni@ed.ac.uk.

FSC logo

EDINBURGH
INSPIRING CAPITAL



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

2006

University News

Honorary degree for legal philosopher and politician

The late Professor Sir Neil MacCormick was one of several noted individuals to receive honorary degrees from the University.

Professor MacCormick, who died in April, aged 67, was a renowned legal philosopher and Scottish politician. Shortly before his passing, he was awarded the honour of Doctor of Science in Social Science by the University.

Professor MacCormick served as Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations at the University for 36 years, and was a former SNP member of the European Parliament and a member of the Convention on the Future of Europe.

Other honorary awards conferred at the Winter 2009 Graduation Ceremonies include:

- Matthew Macleod MacIver, Chief Executive/Registrar of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (Doctor of Education)



Professor Sir Neil MacCormick

- Steve Morrison, Chief Executive of All3Media (Doctor of Science in Social Science)
- Sir David Murray, Rangers Football Club chairman, and chairman of Murray International Holdings (Doctor *honoris causa*)
- Professor Joseph Weiler, Joseph Straus Professor of Law at New York University (Doctor of Laws).

The University Benefactor Award was presented to Alan and Anne McFarlane, and Donald and Euan MacDonald.

PROFESSOR SIR NEIL MACCORMICK (1941–2009)

Professor Sir Neil MacCormick studied philosophy at the University of Glasgow, and politics at Oxford, and during his 36 years as Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations at the University of Edinburgh he published many seminal works on law, politics and morality.

He retired from the University in January, but continued his public service as adviser to the First Minister on European and external affairs.

Possessing a “staggering intellect and great wit”, Professor MacCormick will be sadly missed by friends and colleagues, said Professor Douglas Brodie, Head of the School of Law. “Perhaps no other contemporary scholar has influenced so many areas of legal thinking so deeply over such a long period,” Professor Brodie said.

Professor MacCormick is survived by his wife Flora, three children and three stepchildren.

Turf cutting ceremony for research centre

A turf cutting ceremony with Scotland’s Finance Minister, John Swinney, marked the building of a £60 million research centre at the University.

The Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine will provide researchers with state-of-the-art laboratories to study diseases of the blood, bone, brain and liver. Its location next to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh will also help translate research from the laboratory bench into treatments for patients.

The building, due for completion in 2010 and to be headed by Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, will house researchers from a range of disciplines, including those from the University’s internationally recognised Institute for Stem Cell Research.

The Centre forms a key part of the Edinburgh BioQuarter development at Little France, a collaboration between the University, Scottish Enterprise and NHS Lothian.

Mr Swinney said: “The Centre builds on Scotland’s strengths and ability to work together across academia, health and industry and will enhance Scotland’s global reputation for science.”



An artist's impression of the Centre

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

Journalist takes up seat as Edinburgh's new rector

Iain Macwhirter has been installed as the University of Edinburgh's new rector.

The journalist took 4,822 votes in the rectorial election held earlier this year, winning 69 per cent of the total vote.

Mr Macwhirter said: "I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to take an active involvement in the University and look to ensure the interests of both staff and students are maintained."

The rector chairs the University Court, the governing body of the University, and represents the interests of students and staff. The University's rectorial election takes place every three years, and this election marks 150 years since William Gladstone first took up the post.

Mr Macwhirter studied politics at the University of Edinburgh as a



postgraduate student in the 1970s, and he has worked as a political researcher and journalist since the 1980s. He has been a regular political commentator for Glasgow's *Herald* and *Sunday Herald* and a writer for the *New Statesman* and the *Guardian*.

"It's a genuine honour and a privilege to chair the University Court," he said.

University staff acknowledged in Queen's New Year's Honours List

University of Edinburgh staff have once again been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

The following awards to current or former members of staff will be conferred later this year:

- Professor Sir Neil Douglas, School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health – Knighthood for services to Medicine
- Professor Ian Halliday, School of Physics – CBE for services to Science
- Professor Carole Hillenbrand, former

Head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies – OBE for services to Higher Education

- Professor Isobel Sharp, Visiting Professor, Business School – CBE for services to the Accountancy Profession.

Senior Honorary Professor Geoffrey Boulton, formerly a Vice Principal and Regius Professor of Geology, was also honoured in the French New Year's Honours List as *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* for services to Science and French Culture.

Celebrating five years of Fairtrade

Edinburgh has celebrated its fifth anniversary as Scotland's first Fairtrade University.

Students and staff marked the milestone earlier this year with a series of events, including a Fairtrade tea party, hosted by the University and EUSA, its students' association. A Fairtrade birthday cake was provided and guests included Towera Jalakasi, a Fairtrade consultant and expert from Malawi, courtesy of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.

"Since the University of Edinburgh has become a Fairtrade university, thousands of farmers have been helped out of poverty," said EUSA President, Adam Ramsay.



Edinburgh reaffirms worldwide reputation

The University of Edinburgh's position as one of the world's leading research universities has been reaffirmed by the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results. Turn to page 10 for a full explanation of how the University continues to build on the successes of its research activity.

University News

Lecturer wins theology prize

A University of Edinburgh lecturer has been recognised as one of the most promising young theologians in the world.

Dr Paul Nimmo has been awarded a 2009 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise for his work on the ethics of the Swiss theologian Karl Barth.

Dr Nimmo, who was appointed Lecturer in Theology in June, will receive a prize of \$US10,000 (£7,000). He will also receive additional funds of up to £7,000 to pay for public lectures at universities and other educational institutions around the world.

He will receive the prize at an awards ceremony at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Established in 2005, the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise is given annually to 12 young scholars in any area of religious studies for the best doctoral thesis or best first book related to the topic 'God and spirituality'.

Dr Nimmo's award was in recognition of his book *Being in Action: The Theological Shape of Barth's Ethical Vision* (Continuum, 2007), which arose out of his doctoral research carried out at Edinburgh.



Paul Edwards

Olympic rower Katherine Grainger

Olympic rowing heroine returns to training ground

Triple Olympic silver medallist and University of Edinburgh alumna Katherine Grainger made an emotional return to the University recently.

The world-class rower came back to the place where her sporting career started to launch the University boat club's new eight-man craft. Ms Grainger first took up rowing while studying law at Edinburgh and made the transition to international rowing while she was still a student.

As well as winning silver at the Sydney, Athens and Beijing Olympic Games, she has won four golds and a bronze at the World Championships in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

The new boat was funded almost exclusively by generous grants from the University's sports union.

Ms Grainger said: "I have such fond memories of my time at Edinburgh. I met some of my best friends through rowing.

"I wasn't very good when I first started but I stuck with the boat club because the social life is fantastic. It's exciting to get my own boat and I hope that it will be an inspiration to others."

New post created for rabbit medicine

The popularity of rabbits as pets has led to a post for a lecturer dedicated to rabbit medicine being established.

It is estimated that there are more than 1.4 million pet rabbits in the UK, which are either kept indoors as house pets or outside.

Brigitte Reusch has taken up the role as lecturer in Rabbit Medicine and

Surgery at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Miss Reusch, who has several years' experience in treating rabbits, will also run a rabbit clinic at the School's Hospital for Small Animals as part of its Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service. In recent years, vets at the Hospital have been treating an increasing number of rabbits.



Brigitte Reusch with Belgian hare Franz

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

University recognised for carbon dioxide reduction

The University has won a major award after reducing the amount of carbon dioxide it produces.

It is the first educational establishment in Scotland to be awarded the Carbon Trust Standard – the world's first carbon certification initiative.

The University's flagship project was to install three combined heat and power engines at the Pollock Halls of Residence, King's Buildings and George Square energy centres. The project significantly cuts carbon emissions and generates savings of £1 million per year.

"Accreditation to the Carbon Trust Standard is the latest in a succession of awards that recognise that we are working along the right lines," said Angus Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings.

The University is committed to achieving continued reduction of its environmental impact, and three sustainability projects were shortlisted for 2007/08 Green Gown awards. In addition, the recently completed Informatics Forum achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating, reflecting



The award-winning Informatics Forum

the environmentally sustainable design and construction of the building.

The University encourages sustainable travel through numerous initiatives such as the provision of shuttle buses, pool cars and improved cycling facilities. More than 70 per cent of University staff do not drive to work. Last year, the University recycled 56 per cent of its general waste and it has made a 13 per cent carbon saving relative to turnover.

Great minds meet at portrait unveiling

An evocative painting of the physicist Professor Peter Higgs by leading artist Ken Currie has gone on display at the University. The oil painting shows the eminent scientist at his home in Edinburgh and is being displayed in the Informatics Forum.

Professor Higgs, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University, and Mr Currie, one of Scotland's most influential artists, were both at the unveiling.

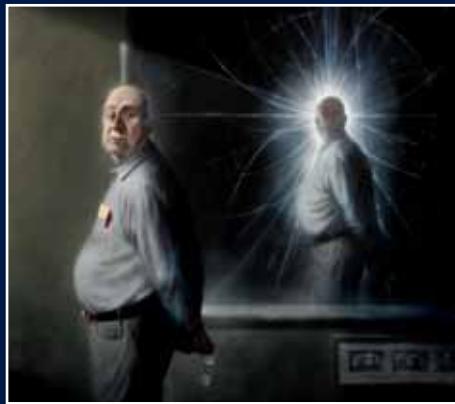


Image courtesy of Ken Currie

Young Lego fans in league of their own

The University of Edinburgh has hosted the first ever Scottish round of the worldwide First Lego League competition, which attracts 12,000 teams.

Contestants, aged between nine and 16, built and programmed Lego robots to carry out "missions" around the theme of "climate connections".

Pupils programmed the robots to tackle challenges such as 'studying wildlife' (moving a Lego polar bear to a Lego ice sheet) and 'burying carbon dioxide' (dropping balls into a Lego CO₂ reservoir).

The event was organised by the FIRST Foundation (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a non-profit organisation that seeks to introduce children to the fun and excitement of science and technology.

The University's School of Informatics provided some of the participating schools with Lego robot kits and contributed to each school's competition fees.



A Lego enthusiast at work

Adriana M. Groisman, courtesy of FIRST

Research News

Satellite project to tackle global warming

University of Edinburgh scientists are seeking ways to curb global warming with the help of satellites that measure carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere.

Researchers will study data from the instruments, which were launched by NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency earlier this year.

Known as the Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) and the Greenhouse Gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT), the satellites will, for the first time, give region-by-region accounts of Earth's carbon emissions and highlight areas that are absorbing the most carbon dioxide.

Currently, scientists are able to look at carbon dioxide emissions from small areas such as cities, or large areas such as oceans. The new satellites will make regional data available for the first time, potentially helping to quantify the emission outputs of individual countries.

Study highlights bilingual benefits

Results from a new study could give teachers valuable insights into the way bilingual children think.

The findings, from a multi-disciplinary research team at the University of Edinburgh, reveal that bilinguals find it easier to block out potential distractions, but may take a split second longer to disengage from the task on which they are focusing.

With the number of bilingual families in the UK growing rapidly, researchers say it is more important than ever that teachers understand the benefits of bilingualism.

Pioneering researchers hailed as leaders in field

Three young researchers from the University of Edinburgh have been recognised as among the most promising of their generation.

The Philip Leverhulme Prize, awarded by the Leverhulme Trust, was awarded to Dr Jared Tanner from the School of Mathematics, Dr Paul Palmer from the School of GeoSciences and Dr Jill Burke from the School of Arts, Culture and Environment.

Recipients of the £70,000 study prize are usually individuals under the age of 36 who have made an exceptional contribution to their area of study.

Dr Tanner is a high-dimensional geometry expert and also studies an emerging area of mathematics that has direct applications in electrical

engineering. His work helps to improve the accuracy of MRI scanning and data processing.

Dr Palmer studies movement and chemical changes in gases in the atmosphere that are linked to climate change. He uses data from satellites – a new approach that produces more accurate results than conventional methods.

Dr Burke is an expert in Italian renaissance art whose work challenges traditional views of her subject.

"These awards, which recognise emerging talent in pioneering areas of study, will enable the winners to expand their investigations, which in turn deliver tangible benefits for society," said Steve Chapman, Vice Principal, Planning, Resources and Research Policy.

3D images key to gene mapping research

Scientists hope to gain greater understanding of disease and birth defects by mapping gene expression during development.

The research will log thousands of 3D images relating to the first 10 days of a chick embryo's development.

The 'chick atlas' is being coordinated by the Roslin Institute at the University. This is being done in collaboration with the MRC Human Genetics Unit (Edinburgh), University College London, University of Bath and Trinity College Dublin.

"The chick atlas has the benefit of looking at how genes relate to development in both time and space; letting us know when and where genes make an impact," explains Professor Dave Burt of the Roslin Institute.

The project will help researchers understand why problems occur in the



Scientists are studying chick embryos

Helen Downie, University of Bath

development of limbs and the nervous system, which can cause conditions such as spina bifida.

In the long term it could also have implications for the treatment of diseases such as cancer as it will provide insight into the role genes play when cells divide and proliferate.

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

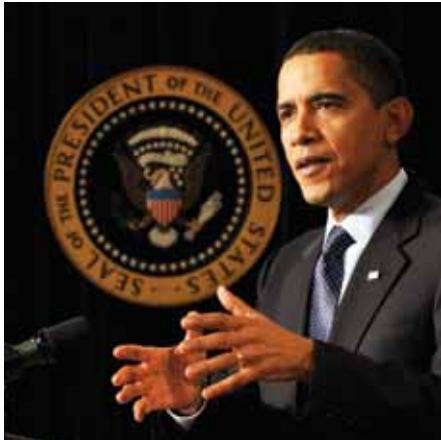
Study shows viewers have eyes for Barack Obama

The magnetic appeal of Barack Obama has been reinforced in a University of Edinburgh study that monitored the reaction of people watching the US Presidential inauguration.

Researchers tracking the eye movements of viewers watching highlights of the ceremony found that they could not take their eyes off the President for almost the entire programme.

Psychologists found that, despite potential distractions, such as the presence of Mr Obama's Presidential rival, John McCain, and the President's family, viewers' eyes were locked on President Obama's face. They only glanced away from the President twice, once when they briefly shifted their attention to Chief Justice Roberts, as the judge made a mistake while leading Mr Obama in the Oath of Office.

Psychologists at the University have been pioneering research into tracking eye



Researchers found viewers were transfixed with Barack Obama

movements using video to better understand how people respond to images on screen.

"People's eye movements are a telltale sign of where their attention lies," said Professor John Henderson of the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. "We thought Obama's inauguration would be an ideal chance to observe this process."

Edinburgh team wins business contest

A University team has won the top prize of £25,000 in a business plan competition run by the Research Councils UK.

The competition encourages and supports the creation of high quality business plans for the commercialisation of research undertaken at UK universities and research institutions.

The Edinburgh plan, which beat some 200 other entries, was developed during a Scottish Enterprise-funded 'proof of concept' contract. The contract brought together physicists, astronomers, and medics from the University's Brain Imaging Centre at the Western General Hospital.

The team, led by astronomer Professor Alan Heavens, has proved the concept that fast processing techniques developed in astronomy can improve the speed and quality of MRI imaging. In particular, they are able to correct the distortion caused when patients move during an MRI scan, a problem that costs millions of pounds annually.

Trevor Whitley, Commercialisation Manager at Edinburgh Research and Innovation, the University's technology transfer office, said: "The University is strategically dedicated to growing its knowledge transfer activity and is delighted by this success."

RESEARCH NEWS IN BRIEF

Computing accolade

Professor Wenfei Fan, a database researcher at the University who is hailed as the best among his generation, has been awarded the 2008 BCS Roger Needham Award. The annual accolade is given to the best UK researcher in computing within 10 years of completing their PhD. Professor Fan has also recently been awarded China's highest academic accolade, the Yangtze River Scholar award.

Tissue damage breakthrough

Edinburgh researchers have moved a step closer to producing silicon chips that could one day be used to repair damaged tissue in the human body. A team at the School of Engineering and Electronics has used conventional silicon chip design and manufacturing to grow neurons – the basic cells of the human nervous system – in fine-detailed patterns on the surface of tiny chips. The development may eventually enable chips to replace damaged nerve or muscle fibres.

New research centre head

Consultant neurologist Dr Siddharthan Chandran has been selected to head the new Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, which has been set up to investigate motor neurone disease (MND). The unique centre was created thanks to a generous donation from Euan MacDonald, who has MND, and his father Donald, both Edinburgh alumni.

Hope for Crohn's patients

The University is conducting a study into the prevention of Crohn's disease, a condition that causes ulceration and swelling of the colon. The study will test whether a drug currently given to treat an attack could also be used to prevent the disease recurring after surgery. The study, conducted by the University's Gastro-Intestinal Unit, is unique to the UK and, over the next three years, will follow the progress of Crohn's patients who have undergone surgery.

Research News

'Leaky' blood vessels stroke link

One in five strokes may be caused by a weakening of the tiny arteries in the brain, a University of Edinburgh study has found.

New research from applied neuro-imaging experts at the University shows that the damage caused by lacunar strokes – which occur in tiny rather than large arteries – may be caused by a weakening of the artery wall. It was previously thought that this type of stroke was caused only by reduced blood flow to the brain.

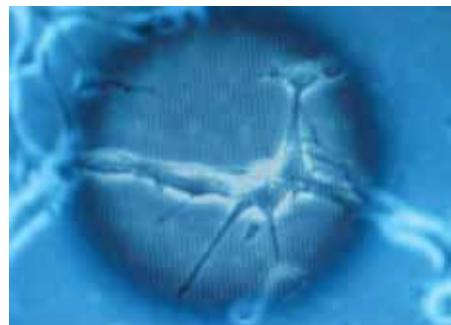
The scientists believe that this weakening occurs in the protective lining of the small arteries – known as the blood-brain barrier – which stops potentially harmful substances getting into the brain.

Breakthrough signals path to 'safer' stem cell surgery

University scientists have paved the way for stem cells made from skin cells to be safely transplanted into humans.

Research carried out by the University's Medical Research Council (MRC) Centre for Regenerative Medicine and the University of Toronto has overcome one of the main risks associated with use of such stem cells, and could also ultimately spell an end to the need for using human embryos as a source of stem cells.

It is the first time that scientists have been able to 're-programme' human skin cells to act like embryonic stem cells without the need to use viruses, which modify cells' DNA and pose a cancer risk. The scientific findings are published in the journal *Nature*.



Stem cell breakthrough

The research looked at transforming specialist cells to act like embryonic stem cells. This then gives the cells – known as induced pluripotent stem cells – the ability to become any type of cell in the body.

For a memorable reunion choose a memorable setting!



Peebles Hydro

Choice of venue plays an important part in any successful reunion. At Peebles Hydro you can relax in the knowledge that you are looked after by highly experienced professionals. creating just the right atmosphere for success!

01721 720 602

www.peebleshydro.co.uk
sales@peebleshydro.co.uk

 McMillan Hotels

www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk

Experts begin £1m quest for mobile phone solutions

Experts in Britain and China working together on technology for the next generation of mobile phones have received nearly £1 million to boost the project.

The UK-China Science Bridge, a collaboration between six British universities and a consortium of Chinese universities and businesses, has been awarded £939,623 of Government money for research into 4G wireless mobile communications over the next three years.

The money, provided by Research Councils UK, will fund scientists' visits to universities and businesses in Britain and China. It will also pay for technical workshops in which researchers and engineers will learn about each others' work and have the opportunity to forge new partnerships.

Researchers say the project will lead to quicker production of the next generation of mobile phones and other wireless communications devices, with new technology becoming available in products and services at an increasing pace.

The project's work will include trying to understand better the role that wireless technologies played in the Beijing Olympics, so that the London Games in 2012 might benefit.

free 96 page brochure

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS**

bespoke design & craftsmanship

lifetime guarantee

free local design service



LOFT LIVING

unlock your home's full potential and create new space with bespoke, handcrafted furniture

With many of us choosing to postpone our next house move, we're increasingly turning to the loft to add the extra room we crave. When you consider how much space you could add it may well be one of the most profitable investments you make, increasing the value of your home by up to 15%.* As bespoke furniture specialists for over 20 years, we have been transforming unusual spaces into beautiful, handcrafted living spaces for a multitude of uses. Whether you're looking for a study, a master bedroom suite or a games room, one of our experienced designers will work with you to create a custom made furniture solution, whatever your budget.

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE BROCHURE

0161 873 8333

QUOTE CODE EDIT10 LINES OPEN 7 DAYS

www.nevillejohnson.co.uk/edit

*Source: Federation of Master Builders (FMB) **Terms apply, subject to status

Alternatively, complete and return the coupon to the address below.

Mr/Mrs/Miss:

Name:

EDIT10

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:



**NEVILLE
JOHNSON**
design without compromise®

Please tick if you do not wish to receive information concerning other Neville Johnson products
Neville Johnson Ltd, Broadoak Business Park, Ashburton Road West, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1RW. Fax: 0161 873 8335.

STUDIES

BEDROOMS

LOUNGES

LIBRARIES

CINEMA

DINING

University News

'World-leading' and 'internationally excellent': RAE reinforces the University's reputation

Edinburgh's reputation as one of the best research universities in the world was reinforced with the recently published results of the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), reports Catriona Kelly.

Results of the RAE, which is carried out on behalf of the four UK funding councils, are used to inform future decisions on grants made to researchers. They show that the University performed well across its three Colleges. Almost two-thirds (63 per cent) of research activity undertaken at the University was found to be 4* world-leading or 3* internationally excellent – the highest categories available.

In terms of its volume of 4* world-leading research, which is the top grading available, the University ranks first in Scotland and in the top five in the UK.

The University submitted research for 39 different subject areas. Thirty-eight out of 39 have research that was classified as 4* world-leading, and all 39 had research classified as 3* internationally excellent, in terms of originality, significance and rigour. In 27 different subject areas, the University can be classified as being in the top five of all UK institutions (see table, opposite).

The Principal of the University, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, says: "This is an exceptionally strong performance, with more than 1,000 of our researchers being recognised as world-leading or internationally excellent. "Research at the University of Edinburgh is constantly expanding the depth of human knowledge and making an impact on the wider world, improving the quality of life for people in Scotland and further afield.

"It is our outstanding staff who attract the most talented students from around the globe and underpin our substantial economic contributions in terms of licensing, patents and spin-out companies, as well as tangible social and healthcare improvements."

The people involved in research at the University cover as diverse a range of



Edinburgh's reputation has been reaffirmed

subjects as is possible to imagine. Laura Marcus is Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature and Director of Research for English, and her interests include modernist literature and culture. She came to Edinburgh from the University of Sussex, to take up the challenge of working in a large university in a major city.

Professor Marcus says: "I was impressed by the English department, and the wide range of excellent work that was being conducted. There is an excellent

postgraduate community and culture here. I would rate my experience of carrying out research at Edinburgh highly.

"My research has certainly benefited from having excellent libraries and other research resources close to hand. The exceptional range of events, including seminars, visiting speakers and conferences, contributes to the very strong research climate. The large number of postgraduate students also contributes in a major way."

Dr Nicholas Mills is a Clinical Lecturer in the University's Centre for Cardiovascular Science. He is among a group of researchers at the University who were the first to show a direct link between the effects of exposure to diesel pollution and heart and blood vessel function.

By understanding the effects of diesel pollution, researchers will be able to advise patients with heart disease how best to minimise any potential risk.

Dr Mills says: "I studied medicine as an undergraduate student at Edinburgh and have never considered leaving the city. The training is excellent and the teaching hospital is one of the best in the country."

Dr Mills says translational research benefits from having excellent facilities, where the medical school, hospital and research institute are all situated on the same campus. He adds: "Edinburgh has an international reputation for cardiovascular research and I have always found it a stimulating environment to work in."

Dr Polly Arnold is a Reader in Inorganic Chemistry and specialises in making molecules that textbooks say should not exist. Her work helps further the understanding of chemical bonds, and how they can be used in real-life problems, such as tackling nuclear waste.

"More than 1,000 of our researchers have been recognised as world-leading or internationally excellent."

"Edinburgh is exciting. I'm in a large department with lots going on – that is exactly what you need to do high quality cutting-edge research," she explains.

Dr Arnold believes that good financial support is important for the long-term health of research, "so that we don't behave like businesses with short-term goals".

She adds: "The EaStCHEM pooling initiative [the Edinburgh and St Andrews Research School of Chemistry] gave us postgraduate research student funding that was incredibly flexible. This allowed us to hire the best students from all over the world, with minimal time delays. We could almost immediately see the benefits. We need to continue to hire lots of imaginative postgraduate students who can see how their research keeps us leading the pack."

For a full picture of the University's 2008 Research Assessment Exercise results, visit www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news.rae.

The University of Edinburgh submitted research for 39 subject areas in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. The following 27 can be classified as being in the top five of all UK institutions.

Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science	1st	Physics	3rd
Computer Science and Informatics	1st	Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Clinical Psychology	3rd
Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	1st	Pure Mathematics	3rd
Linguistics	1st	Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies	3rd
Other Hospital-Based Clinical Subjects	1st	General Engineering and Mineral & Mining Engineering	4th
Biological Sciences	2nd	Social Work & Social Policy and Administration	4th
Chemistry	2nd	Sociology	4th
Education	2nd	Anthropology	5th
Middle Eastern & African Studies	2nd	Applied Mathematics	5th
English Language and Literature	2nd	Asian Studies	5th
Architecture and the Built Environment	3rd	Celtic Studies	5th
German, Dutch and Scandinavian Languages	3rd	French	5th
History	3rd	Law	5th
		Statistics and Operational Research	5th

theedinburghfund

people | places | ideas

Tomorrow's great minds may never read this

Last year 239 potentially brilliant students turned down places at the University. Why?

Because of their financial situations. The Edinburgh Fund,

made wholly of alumni donations, supported 58 students in this position with Access Bursaries in 2008. With your help we can increase our target to 100 next year.

Please make a donation today.

The University of Edinburgh Campaign



You can make a donation online at www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk Or simply complete and return the donation form in the freepost envelope enclosed or send to: Development and Alumni, The University of Edinburgh, FREEPOST EH565, Edinburgh EH8 0BR, United Kingdom.

The Edinburgh University Development Trust, Registered Charity NO. SC004307.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Prof. Initials:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

If you are happy for the University to contact you via email in future to reduce costs, please tell us the best address to reach you on:

Email:

I would like to make a gift of:

£10 £50 £100 £250

My own preferred amount of £

Please tick if you would like your donation to be anonymous.

How to make your donation

I enclose a cheque made payable to The University of Edinburgh Development Trust *USA/Canadian taxpayers please see notes below.

I would like to donate by Mastercard/Visa/Maestro/Eurocard

Card Number

<input type="text"/>				
<input type="text"/>				
<input type="text"/>				
<input type="text"/>				

Start date

Issue number
(Maestro payments only)

Signature

Expiry date

3 digit security code
(the last 3 digits of the number on the card's signature strip)

Date

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer we can reclaim the tax you have already paid on this donation. Simply tick the Gift Aid box on the right and the Inland Revenue will give us an extra 28 pence for every £1 you give us.

I am a UK taxpayer and would like to make the donation(s) referred to in this form by Gift Aid. Please reclaim tax on all donations I have made to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust since the 6th of April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. (You must have paid an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax deducted on your donation(s)).

Signature

Date

*US taxpayers: If you are a US taxpayer and would like to give tax effectively then you can make your donation to the University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust Inc. This is an independent 501 (c)(3) organization registered in the US. Please make your check payable to The University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust Inc.

*Canadian Taxpayers: If you are a Canadian resident and would like a receipt for the Canadian Revenue Agency the University is registered as an eligible institution. Please make your cheque payable to The University of Edinburgh.

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

Data Protection Information

The Development and Alumni Office of The University of Edinburgh would like to keep you up to date with details of news, events and fundraising activities using the contact details you have supplied.

All personal data is held by Development and Alumni and will be treated confidentially and with sensitivity. The data may be used by the University, recognised alumni clubs, or agents of the University to arrange alumni activities, including sending publications, offering benefits and services, organising reunions, and in our fundraising programmes. If you would prefer not to be included in any of these activities, please tick this box We will then contact you to establish and record your wishes.

Thank you on behalf of the staff and students at Edinburgh today

EF-EDITSUM09



DARWIN
EDINBURGH
2009

The Origin of GENIUS

This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, author of *On the Origin of Species* and one of Edinburgh's most eminent scholars. Chris Small investigates how Darwin's time at the University helped shape the natural philosopher's famous theories.



In 1825 a 16-year-old student, uncertain of what career he wanted to pursue, enrolled at the University of Edinburgh to study medicine. He was one of hundreds of teenage boys then starting life as a student in the city, but he was to become the University's most famous scholar. His name was Charles Darwin.

This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Darwin (1809–1882) and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* – one of the most profound achievements in Western intellectual history. The University is celebrating the relationship between Darwin and Edinburgh with a series of talks and exhibitions throughout 2009.

The celebrations will culminate in a joint exhibition, to be held at the Talbot Rice Gallery from 24 October to 12 December. *Darwin's Edinburgh* will explore the reality of 1820s medicine, Darwin's first forays into natural history, the intellectual climate he encountered in Scotland's capital, and his legacy in Edinburgh, while *An Entangled Bank* will display work from contemporary Scottish artists responding to Darwin's ideas.

Among the many virtues stemming from the natural philosopher's two years in the capital is the extraordinary trove of Darwin artefacts the University has accumulated, many of which will be displayed as part of *Darwin's Edinburgh*.

For Dr John Scally, Director of University Collections, the Darwin archive signals how Edinburgh informed the natural philosopher's later achievements.

"Our connection with Darwin starts with the matriculation album in which Charles and his brother Erasmus signed their names, and which we have in the collection," Dr Scally explains.

Common with many students, even in 2009, Darwin did not at first choose the best subject for him. It was chosen for him by his father, and Darwin quickly backtracked from his initial commitment to medicine. "He came here to study medicine and ended up dropping in to the Scottish Enlightenment and natural philosophy," says Dr Scally.

"From a very early age Darwin's interests were diverse. He was an embryonic Victorian gentleman investigator and scholar, working on all sorts of interests around natural philosophy, medicine, collecting and comparison."

At this time the University's Old College Museum – now the site of the Talbot Rice Gallery – had only been established for 30 years. It was the UK's second largest museum after the British Museum and an outstanding resource for scholars.

"We have an engraving of the Old College Museum, which occupied three floors in Old College," says Dr Scally. "You can see on the engraving [pictured, right] a lot of the cases containing geological specimens. When Darwin dropped out of medicine this is where he went. In the exhibition we'll try to convey the magnitude of this museum."

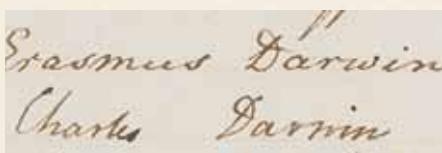
Darwin's two years in Edinburgh need to be understood in a wider cultural and historical context, Dr Scally says: "He had a generalist perspective from the start. But when Darwin came here it altered the way he thought. It was at a point when lots of great ideas were flowing through from the European Enlightenment; ideas about rational thinking and secular investigation of the natural world. There was an attempt to pull back religion and the Biblical version of events to look at evidence and let the natural world tell you how it actually came about."

Edinburgh itself was a city that seemed primed to accept Darwin's highly inquisitive, idiosyncratic approach. "The city at that point was a hotbed of lots of different ideas," continues Dr Scally. "John James Audubon [author of *The American Woodsman*] was there, Walter Scott was still alive – Darwin met Scott at the Royal Society. Darwin instantly fitted in to a Whiggish or non-conformist grouping within Edinburgh."

Fellow experts at the University agree with Dr Scally that Darwin was here at an intellectually fertile time for the city. But Dr Stana Nenadic, Senior Lecturer in Economic and Social History, argues that other factors about Edinburgh could have impacted on him. She points to parallels between what Darwin observed in the 1820s and the parlous world economy of 2009.

"Darwin's Edinburgh years witnessed the first great international financial crisis of the modern age," she says. "It began as a London banking crisis with similarities to what we see today – monetary expansion, risky speculation and poor regulation – and had a domino effect on the rest of the economy, bringing bankruptcy to many."

"The publishing industry was particularly affected. The firm of Constable & Co collapsed and Sir Walter Scott, a giant of the age, was financially ruined. In the evolution of the economy, in the processes of



economic selection and survival of the fittest, Charles Darwin may well have seen parallels with the natural world."

Pat Fisher, Principal Curator of the Talbot Rice Gallery and curator of *An Entangled Bank*, thinks these parallels between past and present will help speak to audiences for the forthcoming exhibitions.



"When Darwin came here it altered the way he thought... lots of great ideas were flowing through from the European Enlightenment."

"The exhibitions are intended as a unified, single experience that exemplify the University's history as well as its modernity," she says. "In addition to telling the historic story we also want to engage the public.

"The Talbot Rice Gallery rooms typify the University because you have history here, both in its architectural ambience and what's usually on display here, but next door in the White Cube space you have the epitome of modernity. The historic story will be complemented by the projects of five contemporary artists [Christine Borland, Ilana Halperin, Brian Hewitt, Kenny Hunter and Ben Rivers] whose projects will explore different aspects of Darwin's experience."

Professor Aubrey Manning, zoologist, writer and broadcaster, and Emeritus Professor of Natural History at the University, spoke about Darwin at Edinburgh at a special event held in the McEwan Hall in February.

Like Dr Scally and Mrs Fisher, Professor Manning feels that Edinburgh is at the heart of Darwin's intellectual trajectory. But he also stresses the collaborative nature of Darwin's experiences here.

"It's important to emphasise the other people who influenced Darwin," he says. "He was not a loner and required the active support of other great people at several crucial junctures. Nevertheless, all those people recognised what a great scientist Darwin was, with his immense range of knowledge and his caution about leaping to conclusions."

Professor Manning feels that Darwin's achievements have implications for anyone studying or working in the arena of natural philosophy in 2009. "His example can show us how to become observers of the natural world, how to understand more about it and with this understanding, come to love it. From love may come concern, which is now certainly justified."

Dr Scally feels that the roots of Darwin's concern for the natural world can be found in his Edinburgh years. But for him the highlight of the University's collection is a single leaf of paper that suggests the thin division between Darwin's scientific work and his family life.

"It's a page from the final draft of *On the Origin of Species* that Darwin wrote down," he explains. "Darwin, unlike modern archivists and librarians, didn't have the same respect for his manuscript collection. The pencil arithmetic trials on the back of the manuscript are the homework of his grandchildren! He actually gave the final draft of this famous book to his grandchildren to do their homework on... So there's a nice personal story there that can be brought out in the exhibition."

Dr Scally believes the bicentenary of Darwin's birth is the ideal time to reassess his legacy, and consider what his work means to the University community now: "We are coming to a much more rounded understanding of how Edinburgh shaped Darwin to become the great genius he was. We want the exhibitions to send the message that at the time Darwin was here it was the post-Enlightenment city, and a very dynamic and vibrant environment to be in. It's good in 2009 to be investigating that."

Darwin's Edinburgh and An Entangled Bank will run from 24 October to 12 December in the Talbot Rice Gallery.

NEXT GENERATION

EDUCATION



Simon Bates has the kind of assured, helpful demeanour that would make him an ideal 'phone a friend' option were you ever to find yourself struggling on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* So it seems appropriate that the senior physics lecturer is a keen advocate of an ingenious new teaching aid that will strike a chord with fans of the popular game show. Without embracing technology for technology's sake, his enthusiasm for these hand-held gadgets, similar to the 'ask the audience' devices used on *Millionaire*, is based on their usefulness to students and teachers alike. Three thousand pairs of the gadgets are now used at the University, by first- and second-year science and veterinary medicine students, to alert lecturers if they fail to grasp tricky subjects.

The infra-red voting system, popularly called "Clickers", enables students to respond en masse when lecturers ask if they are being understood. The feedback lets lecturers focus more accurately on areas that a class might be struggling with, and Dr Bates sees it as a necessary and welcome departure from the traditional lecture.

"It may appear gimmicky but there's a real educational value to this," he says. "Rather than students passively sitting there taking some things in, this tests their understanding and provides them with rapid feedback. It's also proved successful in getting us to think about how we lecture."

New solutions

How best to impart knowledge in the 21st century often exercises the mind of Professor Dai Hounsell, the new Vice Principal for Academic Enhancement, who has recently been appointed to focus on improving the quality of the student experience at the University.

Professor Hounsell, who was the founding Director of the University's Centre for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, has the initial priority of enhancing student assessment and feedback, which has been highlighted in recent student surveys as an area of concern. "Previously, there was more opportunity for a student to sit down with a tutor and say, 'I'm a bit stuck here,'" he says. "We don't have quite the same opportunities as we used to."

Dr Paul McLaughlin, from the School of Biological Sciences, and Wesley Kerr (e-Assessment Manager) have been working with colleagues to come up with new solutions for student feedback. Their e-marking system, which seeks to provide fuller electronic feedback on essays – sent securely to student laptops – has been welcomed by science, engineering and divinity undergraduates, who say the system beats having to decipher scribbles in the margins of printed A4 paper.

Markers like the new system too, he says: "We've run the system in classes of more than 450 students, using 20 markers, and the volume of work was efficiently handled without using paper. There's a real sense that it's addressing the negative experiences that some students have had with traditional marking. It also lets markers feed back in a more constructive manner."

Inspired by the e-marking pilot, Dr McLaughlin and his colleagues have developed a video feedback system, where students simply click on the file that contains their returned essay. Trials show this has also been a success, he says.

But it's not just essay feedback that is changing. The days when you wished you could scrub out what you had written in an exam may also increasingly be a thing of the past, as Edinburgh academics explore the possibility of using computers in exams.

FROM QUIZ SHOW TECHNOLOGY IN LECTURE THEATRES TO VIRTUAL TUTORIALS AROUND A CAMPFIRE, A VARIETY OF TEACHING INNOVATIONS ARE WINNING THE APPROVAL OF EDINBURGH STUDENTS. RONALD KERR REPORTS



Adam House's ground floor has been raised and rewired so that 63 students and their laptops can be accommodated in a single exam sitting. Three MBA students have already been offered the choice of sitting essay exams on computer.

Timely feedback

Ensuring teaching staff use appropriate technology is a priority for Professor Susan Rhind, Director of the University's Veterinary Teaching Organisation at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. One of her key tasks is to help ensure graduates are fully prepared when they walk into a veterinary practice, and technology has a vital contribution to make.

A virtual farm streams live images, from the Vet School's dairy farm at Langhill to students, where they can monitor their 'adopted cow' over a yearly cycle and, in virtual clinics, students can listen to heartbeats through a virtual stethoscope.

Professor Rhind is also developing a range of e-tools that can deliver timely and specific feedback to students working in a stressful clinical environment. Wikis, podcasts and e-learning environments, where students can raise concerns, are helping to prepare an increasingly diverse group of students for the world of work.

"A good teacher is a good teacher regardless of technology," says Professor Rhind, "but the amount of information that a student retains after a lecture can be

minimal. It's therefore important that we give them the opportunity to think for themselves and e-learning can help that process, though we don't see it as a substitute for face-to-face discussion."

Face-to-face learning doesn't figure in the day-to-day experience of students completing Edinburgh's MSc in e-learning, however. The course, which is in its second year and aimed mainly at professionals working in higher and further education, uses tools such as weblogs, Skype and Second Life, the world's largest user-created 3D virtual community.

Dr Siân Bayne, who has been responsible for developing the Masters programme, says Second Life can help students overcome the isolation they might feel on distance learning programmes: "The only difference is that our virtual tutorials take place clustered around a campfire in a rural setting [see photo, below]. Second Life shakes you into new ways of thinking about online learning."

This radical teaching approach, practically unimaginable five years ago, is transforming the student experience – so much so that those completing the course are likely to favour a parallel graduation ceremony in Second Life rather than the real thing at McEwan Hall.

Traditionalists can rest assured, however – Masters degrees in e-learning are still awarded as conventional scrolls sent out in the post. For now anyway...



WIKIS, PODCASTS AND E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS ARE HELPING TO PREPARE AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS FOR THE WORLD OF WORK.



LENDING A HELPING HAND

University of Edinburgh graduate Grant Guthrie is joint winner of the inaugural Principal's Medal award. *Edit* speaks to Grant about how volunteering at home and abroad has given him a fresh perspective. By Cate MacKenzie

Most students use their summer break to relax with friends and family, while earning money for the academic year ahead. Edinburgh graduate Grant Guthrie recently spent his facilitating sexual health workshops in schools – in Uganda.

"We worked in the north of the country, on the border with Sudan, and visited refugee camps. We saw some horrific things; I won't ever forget them and I will go back," vows Grant, joint winner of the University of Edinburgh's inaugural Principal's Medal, which recognises staff and/or students who have made a significant contribution to support or benefit the wider community.

Grant, 23, travelled to Uganda as coordinator of an Edinburgh Global Partnerships (EGP) project. EGP is a University of Edinburgh student-run charitable society, and each year some

70 volunteers travel to nearly 10 countries to assist in community development.

As the Uganda project coordinator, Grant handpicked a team of volunteers, spearheaded a fundraising campaign to raise £6,000 and took care of all the logistics involved in taking a group overseas – all while studying full time for his undergraduate MA in English Literature.

"We worked with a Ugandan children's charity running sexual health workshops in schools, often with classes of over 400," explains Grant. "Misinformation is so prevalent there that a few hours' work could make all the difference. For example, people thought that if they had sex enough they could reduce the amount of HIV in their bodies or that by bathing after sex the HIV wouldn't infect them."

Helping to educate Ugandan schoolchildren was how Grant, then just 21, spent his University summer break of 2006. In the summer of 2008, in his final year at the University of Edinburgh, he led another EGP project, this time in Nepal, where his group facilitated language and sports classes and helped to construct a school.

"In Nepal we met warm and trusting

people," says Grant. "I am always humbled by the fact that the poorest people are often the most generous. We were treated like family by the whole village."

Grant's commitment and compassion have not gone unnoticed, and after a fellow student nominated him for the University's Principal's Medal, he emerged a clear choice for the honour. He shares the prize with University staff member Lesley Forrest, who was honoured for her voluntary work with organ donors and transplant recipients.

The new award seeks to recognise staff or students who "go the extra mile" to contribute to the wider community, explains chair of the judges, Vice Principal for Research, Training & Community Relations, Professor Mary Bownes: "By that we mean the wider Edinburgh or indeed the wider global community. The nominations were exceptional and we therefore decided to launch the medal by giving two awards.

"Both Lesley, a member of staff, and Grant, a student, have, in different ways, done huge amounts to support different parts of the community. Besides working or studying, they have given so much of their expertise and time to help others."



Grant Guthrie runs a sexual health Q&A session in Uganda

Grant admits he was "delighted and very surprised" to learn he had won. "My university friends were pleased, especially those who put the time in to nominate me, and my family said they were proud of me, except my wee brother who proclaimed me a goody-goody!" he laughs.

Grant was acknowledged for his work across a range of charitable initiatives. In addition to his overseas postings he has volunteered for several UK-based charities including Oxfam; the Welcoming, which provides assistance to refugees; Glasgow-based Bill's Workshop, a woodworking centre that assists people living with mental health problems; and Epilepsy Connections, where he facilitated computing classes and daytrips.

The stimulation and enrichment that comes from meeting people of different backgrounds is "the underlying reason" for Grant's motivation to do charity work, he explains: "When I was 15 my father helped set up several mental health charities in Glasgow, including Bill's Workshop. I worked there during my last years of school. My volunteering has let me meet fascinating people and see the world from so many different perspectives – I have learnt so much. I don't really think of it as a sacrifice, I've always enjoyed it."

But fitting in charity work around family commitments and full-time study wasn't always plain sailing. "It was hard at times," Grant concedes. "In second year, whilst organising the Uganda project and volunteering at the Welcoming, I was studying to gain an additional science qualification so I could go into medicine [Grant is undertaking an accelerated medical degree at Newcastle Medical School]. That was challenging!

"Sadly, in my third year, my mother was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer.

So my fourth year was difficult juggling my commitments to my Nepal project and my academically crucial final year whilst supporting my family."

Grant's mother passed away a month before he received news of his Principal's Medal win, and she will be in his thoughts when he formally accepts the award at this year's summer graduations: "I know she would've been delighted; she will always inspire me." Grant will be joined at the Principal's Medal presentation by joint winner, University staff member Lesley Forrest. Lesley, a senior administrative assistant in Financial Accounting (Endowments), was singled out for the honour in recognition of her voluntary work with organ donors and transplant recipients.

"I am always humbled by the fact that the poorest people are often the most generous. We were treated like family by the whole village."

"The University of Edinburgh has a worldwide reputation for the quality of our research and teaching staff and we recognise our stars," says Professor Mary Bownes. "We also have a key role to play in the wider community and many of our staff give huge amounts of time and expertise to a vast array of projects."



Lesley Forrest celebrates her Transplant Games medal win

After enduring years of dialysis and then a kidney transplant 12 years ago, Lesley was described as an "inspiration" to the colleagues who nominated her – for holding down a full-time job, raising a family, offering support to other transplant recipients and training to become a world sporting champion.

Lesley volunteers with the Transplant Support Network (TSN) at Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary, and she has represented Team GB at national and international Transplant Games tournaments (for competitors who have had or who are due to have organ transplants), winning a swathe of gold, silver and bronze medals in swimming and walking events.

Like Grant, she is passionate and modest about her charitable work and achievements. "The first Games were quite humbling," she says. "I'd said to my husband, 'I don't think I can do this' – and then I saw wee four and five year olds competing and I thought, 'I'll just enjoy it.'

"I help people because when you've been through something yourself you're quite anxious to relate what you know. TSN supports people who've been affected by transplants, or who are heading towards one. I think it's good that they can come and see people who've had transplants. They can see that we're fine."

Lesley and Grant will receive their awards at this year's summer graduations.



The Principal's Medal

The Principal's Medal was produced in collaboration with Edinburgh College of Art and was designed by artist Karen Akester, who is currently part of the artist in residence programme within the College's glass department.

Current University staff members and students may submit a nomination for this year's Principal's Medal. Nominees may put themselves forward or be nominated by a third party, and a team nominated for the Medal should include no more than four members. Please email jenny.buchanan@ed.ac.uk by 4 September 2009.

Alumni Network

Challenge for Library Friends

The Friends of Edinburgh University Library, founded in 1962 to support the Library and its collections, have accepted a challenge from an anonymous donor.

The Friends have been given the challenge of raising £50,000 towards a project to fund museum-quality display cases and curatorial support for the planned new exhibitions room that will be part of the redeveloped ground floor of the Main Library. If they are successful, the anonymous donor will match their £50,000.

Find out how the Friends did in the next issue of *edit*.

Vice-Principal visits Moscow

Earlier this year, the University's Vice-Principal for Development, Young P. Dawkins, along with Alan Mackay, Head of the International Office, travelled for the first time to Moscow to meet with Edinburgh alumni.

Alumni and friends gathered for a reception at the British Council, where Vice-Principal Dawkins spoke on the importance of the relationship between graduates and the University of Edinburgh and highlighted the increase in numbers of Russian students attending the University each year. It is hoped that this informal but lively occasion was the first of many more future activities in Russia.

Later on in the trip, Mr Dawkins and Mr Mackay met with Dr Vyacheslav Nikonov, Executive Director of the Russkiy Mir Foundation, to sign an agreement of partnership to establish a Russian Centre at the University. The Centre aims to assist academic



A traditional Burns Supper rounded off the Vice-Principal's visit to Moscow

staff and students in the study of the Russian language and to expand on cultural and scholarly exchanges between Scotland and Russia.

The trip ended with a Burns Supper, organised by the Caledonia Club of Moscow, where Mr Dawkins hosted a table on behalf of the University.

Graduate takes award-winning play to the US



Eight received stellar reviews in Edinburgh and New York

University of Edinburgh graduate Ella Hickson has stolen the spotlight in America after her play *Eight* enjoyed a successful three-week run in New York earlier this year.

Shortly after graduating in 2008, with a degree in English Literature & Art History, Ms Hickson wrote the play, which was performed by the Edinburgh University Theatre Company at the Bedlam Theatre and then at Edinburgh's world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The play comprises eight cynical yet touching monologues from a group of 'beguiling oddballs', struggling to define

what it is to be 'normal'. The audience is given the chance to select four characters from the eight on offer to create what is essentially an hour of bespoke drama.

Last year, *Eight* won the prestigious Fringe First award, and then the coveted Carol Tambor Award, which is awarded by Ms Tambor and partner Kent Lawson who travel to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe each year with the ultimate goal of awarding at least one production an all expenses paid run in New York.

Ms Hickson is currently working on her second play.

For all the latest Development & Alumni news, visit: www.ed.ac.uk/alumni

Royal dates for University supporters



The dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh

University friends and supporters recently had the pleasure of attending special events at two of Britain's Royal palaces.

The first occasion, a dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, was hosted by HRH The Princess Royal on behalf of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, to mark the official launch of its new Development Board.

The truly international Development Board will assist the School in achieving its goal of raising the remaining £9 million needed to complete its unique Easter Bush campus development.

The second Royal dinner took place at Buckingham Palace,

and was hosted by the Chancellor, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to celebrate the expansion of the University's successful Scholarship and Bursary Programme.

The programme began in 1998, and this year the University awarded its highest number of access bursaries, and reached the milestone of issuing its 1,000th award.

Some of the University's closest supporters attended the dinner, along with a number of current students, including Callum Gillespie, a third-year medical student from Livingston, and US-born Sara Brightwell, who both spoke about the impact their bursaries have had on them.

Milestone for James Tait Black Memorial Prizes

This year, the University of Edinburgh James Tait Black Memorial Prizes will celebrate their 90th anniversary.

Established in 1919 by the widow of Edinburgh publisher James Tait Black, the prizes are Britain's oldest literary awards. With an international reputation for recognising excellence in biography and fiction, and a prize of £10,000 for the winner of each category, they are the 'gold standard' for writers.

Alumni and special guests of the University will have the chance to take part in the special anniversary celebrations, which will include the announcement of this year's shortlist

at a reception in May at London's Dover House.

The prizes are unique in that they are traditionally judged by scholars and students – a reading panel of University of Edinburgh postgraduate students assist senior staff from within the English Literature department, and the shortlist and winners are selected by Professors Colin Nicholson and Laura Marcus.

Previous winners include Zadie Smith, D.H. Lawrence, Graham Greene and Ian McEwan. This year's prizes will be announced at a ceremony during August's Edinburgh International Book Festival.

The Alumni Card

Have you got your Alumni Card yet? As a University of Edinburgh alumnus, you are eligible for the new-look card, which replaces the Edinburgh Passport.

The Alumni Card offers discounted access to many of the University's outstanding facilities, such as use of the Main Library and the Centre for Sport and Exercise, and it entitles alumni to a range of discounts with partner organisations worldwide, including hotels and leisure facilities. To sign up for your card, visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni.



Alumni Network

For details of alumni clubs, reunions or to make contact with a reunion organiser, please contact Mariana West, Alumni Administrator, tel +44 (0)131 650 9168, email mariana.west@ed.ac.uk or visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni.

Reunions in 2009

1949 MB ChB

Iain McLaren
15–17 September
Edinburgh

1956 MB ChB

Rose Clark
18 September
Lunch in Raeburn Room,
Old College, Edinburgh

1959 BDS

Frances Gould
20–23 May
Edinburgh

1959 BVM&S

Ogilvie Mathieson
18 September
Dinner in Raeburn Room,
Old College, Edinburgh

1959 Chemistry

David Vass
October

1959 Economics

Jean Dunn
3 September
Dinner in the Raeburn
Room, Old College,
Edinburgh

1959 Law

Roger Bland
11 July
Dinner in Raeburn Room,
Old College, Edinburgh

1959 MB ChB

Allan Forsyth
7 September
Playfair Library, Old
College, Edinburgh

1963 Classics

Peter Thomson
Autumn

1964 MB ChB

Ross Barnetson
22–25 September
Australia

1966 MB ChB

Peter Wing, Peter Callegari
and Lysbeth Mccrone
September
BC, Canada

1969 BVM&S

Roy Anderson
11–12 September
Edinburgh

1969 BDS

Alison and Tony Shaw
27 June
Dinner in St Leonard's Hall,
Edinburgh

1974 MB ChB

Andrew Norton
Autumn

1989 Physics (and related)

Jonathan Kobine
11–12 July
www.dundee.ac.uk/~jkobine/EdPhys89/

1989 BVM&S

Lisa Girdwood
13 June
Macdonald Holyrood
Hotel, Edinburgh

Special anniversary vet reunion

For all 'Dick Vet' alumni
who graduated in a year
ending in a '4' or '9'
19 September
Full details available
at www.vet.ed.ac.uk

Dance reunion

March 2010 will mark
the 25th anniversary
celebrations of the
Edinburgh University
Dance Performance.
Each and every one of
the hundreds of people
who have performed in
the show over the years
are invited to attend
these special celebrations.
Highlights include
a Saturday lunchtime
reception, photographic
exhibition of the 25 years
of the University Dance
Show, and a ticket to the
2010 event. If you are
interested in attending,
please send an email to
June.Adamson@ed.ac.uk.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Visitor Centre



Next time you're in Edinburgh, come and see us at the University's new Visitor Centre.

Full of great gift ideas and University merchandise, there's also a book shop, free information and a great exhibition full of interesting facts about the history of your University. We're just next to Potterrow, between Bristo Square and George Square, at:

2 Charles Street
Edinburgh EH8 9AD

T 0131 650 2252
F 0131 650 2253
E universitycentre@ed.ac.uk

For all the latest Development & Alumni news, visit: www.ed.ac.uk/alumni

Classmates together again

Have you lost touch with former University of Edinburgh classmates? Reunions take place all around the world every year, and the Development & Alumni department can help you organise one in your area.

We can also help you contact individuals with whom you have lost touch. One alumnus who took advantage of this service is Christopher Ingram, a 1961 graduate who lives in New Zealand and wanted to track down old friends Barry Kay and Roger Boulton.

We were happy to re-establish contact between the former classmates, and the three met for a mini-reunion recently. Christopher said: "Thank you for putting me in contact – we had a great meeting after 50 years or so!"

Meanwhile, graduates of the class of 1993 MBA recently held a reunion at the University's Business School, to



Christopher Ingram and Barry Kay, with their partners

celebrate 15 years since their graduation. The two-day event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

If you would like to discuss organising a reunion, or would like to get in touch with former classmates, please contact Mariana West, Alumni Administrator, on +44 (0)131 650 9168 or email mariana.west@ed.ac.uk.

US alumni toast Scotland

While Scotland celebrated the 250th anniversary of poet Robert Burns' birth on 25 January, various US-based University of Edinburgh alumni clubs got into the spirit with their own Scottish-themed events.

Alumni in Boston, Massachusetts, got in early with their Burns Night on 16 January, when they were joined by local graduates of other ancient universities for drinks and dinner.

The Washington DC Alumni Club followed suit with their Tribute to Scotland's Most Famous Poet on 24 January, and the University of Edinburgh Alumni Club of New York (EdAlumNY) teamed up with friends from the University of St Andrew's and the Scottish Bar Association on 30 January to host a night of dinner, drinks and poetry.

A taste of Italy

In February, the University held an exclusive wine-tasting event for alumni at the glamorous Aston Martin showroom in London's Park Lane. Wine expert Tom Harrow, a University of Edinburgh alumnus, took guests through a "grand tour of Italy", sampling wines from different regions. For information on upcoming events please visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni.

The University holds many varied alumni events around the world. To ensure you are on our invitation list, we need your correct contact details and a current email address. Update your details by logging in to the Alumni Portal at www.myed.ed.ac.uk.

Club focus: Toronto

The Edinburgh University Club of Toronto (EDUCT) is one of our most active groups of alumni outside the UK, and recently celebrated its sixth anniversary.

The celebrations got off to an auspicious start, with a lunch for the club's past and current presidents, held at La Maquette restaurant.

Meanwhile, alumni and University friends in the Toronto area enjoyed a very successful whisky-tasting event, hosted by alumnus Paul Bradley, at the headquarters of financial services company Fraser MacKenzie. A variety of blended and single malt whiskies from Scotland and Ireland were sampled.



Alumni in Toronto marked a milestone

Host Mr Bradley also recently celebrated his birthday, and kindly asked well-wishers to donate money, in lieu of presents, to the University's Scholarships and Bursaries appeal, which is used to help students in financial difficulties take up their places at Edinburgh.

As a result, the University received a flurry of donations in Mr Bradley's name – a generous gesture on both his and the donors' parts.

For more information on clubs in your area, visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni.

World Service

1940s

Mr Charles R. Bryson BSc 1943 and **Mrs Dorothy S Bryson (nee Bell)** 1943 BSc have celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary.

Mr Roy Helmore CBE BSc 1947 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education by Anglia Ruskin University in November 2008. He was Principal of Cambridgeshire College of Arts & Technology, now the Cambridge campus of Anglia Ruskin, from 1977 to 1986.

Dr Gordon Hickish MB ChB 1948 has recently published *Translation of Philippe Pinel's 1809 Treatise on Mental Alienation* with the objective of enhancing the clinical and social interaction between doctors in the later part of their careers.

1950s

Professor Alexander Johnstone BSc 1953 recently received the prestigious American Chemical Society Award for Achievement in

Research for the Teaching and Learning of Chemistry from the American Chemical Society.

Emeritus Professor David Weaver BSc 1955 has had his *Colour Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of Cattle* translated into six languages (Chinese, Danish, French, Japanese, Polish and Spanish).

Dr Ulric Gibson BSc 1958 received the University of Minnesota's 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award, the university's highest alumni honour.

1960s

Mrs Thora Clemson (nee Clyne) MA 1960 has taken part in the first ever Perthshire Open Studios Event throughout Perth and Kinross, with an exhibition of paintings and prints at the Grouse and Claret Restaurant and Gallery, Kinross.

Dr Peter Kennedy MB ChB 1960 has co-edited *poetrywivenhoe 2008*, a collection of new poetry.

Dr Joan Abbott-Chapman MA 1963, PhD 1965 has been invited back to her former faculty at the University of Tasmania as a Professor of Education on a part-time basis. She is also enjoying time with her retired husband, Barry, and daughter and five-year-old grandson, and is working to reform an alumni association in Tasmania.

Mr Richard Allen MA 1967 is now Deputy Division Chief in the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. He previously worked for HM Treasury, the OECD and the World Bank.

1970s

Dr Alastair Fraser PhD 1970 has been working, mainly in the Far East, on forest policy issues relating to deforestation and climate change.

Mrs Marion Duffy (nee Fisher) BSc 1972 has written *Eight of Cups* with Dr Elaine Atkins, under their pseudonym Mirren Jones. The book tells the story of six women who meet at the University of Edinburgh in the 1970s.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Quentin Cooper

MA in Psychology, 1983

Science journalist and radio presenter Quentin Cooper presents BBC Radio 4's *Material World*, as well as a range of science and technology programmes. He also works with some of the UK's leading science organisations.

"University did lots for me but I think it all comes down to expanding my horizons and building up my sense of self."

"I studied Psychology, and Artificial Intelligence as my outside subject, where Professor Alan Bundy gave me a lot of ideas and insights. I also did Linguistics and Criminology, and I used to sneak into the forensic lectures."

"On top of the syllabus stuff, there were great gigs, parties, conversations, films and all manner of other events. In my final year I ran the psychology society, I did pieces for the student newspaper and student TV and I ran the film society. This was a pre-DVD/video recorder age, so three nights a week we were putting on two films – 180 films a year. We had something like 12,000 members. Doing the society's publicity got me interested in broadcasting; I liked getting people engaged and

I was one of the few people who wanted to get involved in radio but didn't want to be a DJ."

"I stayed on in Edinburgh for a couple of years reviewing for the *Evening News*, making short items for Radio Scotland, and helping start the *List* magazine. After a while I realised I was making a living as a freelance journalist."

"OVER THE YEARS I'VE FOUND MYSELF DOING SOME BIZARRE THINGS IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE."

"Although I have a science background, I think it's more important that you can tell a good story from a bad one, and hopefully make it slightly more interesting. Talk to people long enough and you'll find the most gripping stuff isn't the stuff that appears to be the most important or cutting edge. Sometimes the little stories turn out to be just as beautiful."

"Over the years I have found myself doing some bizarre things in the name of science. I've been a double act with Stephen Hawking; last October I was on a scientific research vessel off the west coast of Greenland and ended up beatboxing with [Japanese musician/actor] Ryuchi Sakamoto; and once I went to



Nathan Gallagher, courtesy of Cape Farewell

NASA to do some behind-the-scenes interviews with the computer technicians and ended up inside the space shuttle simulator. I believe I was the first non-astronaut, non-celebrity to land the space shuttle (my producer destroyed it in about five seconds flat!).

"Science is a big pie, but it is endlessly appetising because it affects everything – I defy you to find anything on the planet that isn't affected by science!"

We are happy to forward correspondence to graduates for whom we hold current address details.
Please email Development & Alumni at alumni@ed.ac.uk to take advantage of this service.

Mrs Catherine L. Lees-Czernawska MA
1972 has begun her fourth year as Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at the University of the West of Scotland. She is also putting the finishing touches on a new novel.

Mr Timothy Rollinson BSc 1976 was appointed Director General and Deputy Chairman of the Forestry Commission in 2004, a Companion of the Chartered Management Institute in 2006, and became a trustee of Tree Aid in 2008.

Mr Nicolas E.R. Sunderland BSc 1977 has returned to full-time lecturing on practical farming, with the emphasis on organic production. He is also a freelance writer, and farms organically.

1980s

Mr Adam Ogilvie-Smith BSc 1980 has been appointed as an Honorary Professor of the Business School at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.

Dr Leemon McHenry PhD 1984 was awarded the American Philosophical Association Edinburgh Fellowship to spend January to August 2009 at the Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Lancelot Whitehead BMus 1987, MMus 1988, PhD 1984 would like to announce the birth of his daughter, on 14 May 2008.

Mr Neil Hume BVM&S 1988 is now one of seven directors of a vet practice in the south island of New Zealand. The practice is based at five sites and provides services for 250,000 dairy cows and four million sheep. He spends his free time with wife Nikki and sons James, George and Jack.

Mr Laurence Mallon BMus 1988 was working as répétiteur and conductor for four years at Das Meininger Theater, the opera house in Meiningen, Germany. He left in 2007 to take up engagements in Luxembourg and Salt Lake City, as well as other freelance work.

1990s

Mrs Naniek W. Nuswantoro MSc 1990 was involved in developing the seed industry in Indonesia, and after retiring from the Department of Agriculture she established an agribusiness development foundation to continue her agricultural development work in her country.

Mr Martin Ritchie MA 1994, BD 2007 has launched his own garden design business, following a year of intensive training at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Julie Fleeting
BEd, 2002

Semi-professional football player Julie Fleeting recently received an MBE for services to women's football. She is one of Scotland's most capped female players and plays for Arsenal in the English Women's Premier League. She teaches PE at Ayrshire's Auchentharrie Academy.

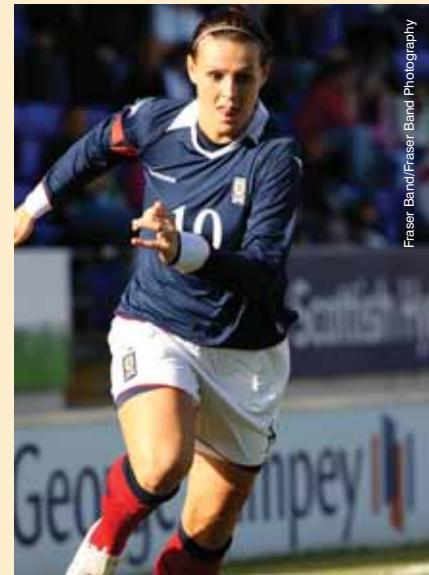
"I was surprised when I found out about the MBE, but obviously thrilled – it means a lot, not only personally but it shows how far women's football has come in the last 10 years."

"I've played for as long as I can remember; I first joined a team when I was nine and I was 15 when I first played for Scotland, in 1996. I have 107 caps now. Getting my first cap was a huge deal, as was scoring my 100th goal for my country, against Slovakia. And winning the UEFA Cup with Arsenal a few years ago was a massive achievement."

"I played football with the University team, and we won the British University Cup in my first year. Everyone on my course was very close; it was just like being at school, only we were all sporty people. I particularly enjoyed the placements; that's when you get a taste of real life."

"Of course some people on my course led the typical student life and were out most nights, but I wasn't heavily into that because I had a lot of training to do. A lot of my friends were involved in sport to a high level as well so they were going through the same type of training."

"Straight after university I moved to America to play professional football for the San Diego Spirit. I was there for two seasons."



Fraser Bain/Fraser Bain Photography

"EVERYONE ON MY COURSE WAS VERY CLOSE; IT WAS JUST LIKE BEING AT SCHOOL, ONLY WE WERE ALL SPORTY PEOPLE."

"I enjoy team sports so PE teaching was my obvious choice. To watch the kids get so much out of sport is probably why I went into the job."

"I work Monday to Friday in Ayrshire and fly to England and back on Sundays for Arsenal games. I train during the week with a local men's team or on my own. The guys are very good to me."

"I am expecting my first child so football is on hold. I hope to be back playing after the baby is born."

a book on police detention, which is due to be published in the next year.

Miss Veronica Yen MA 2000 is now a concert pianist, and has released two albums, one of which remained in the top 10 of the Taiwanese classical chart for 10 weeks.

Mr Jonathan Wynne-Jones MA 2000 has been appointed religious affairs correspondent for the *Sunday Telegraph*.

Mr Benjamin Haughton BSc 2003 and **Dr Joanna Hood MB ChB** 2005 announce their marriage on 18 July 2009.

Mr Douglas Crabbe PGDE 2006 has climbed all 284 Munros, and in doing so has raised more than £12,000 for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres.

Miss Hester Warner MA 2008 is currently completing a six-month internship with the Association of British Orchestras.

2000s

Ms Rebekah Gronowski (nee Zerfahs)

BD 2000, PGDip 2006 has worked in a voluntary capacity for her local Liberal Jewish Community, the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and the Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group.

Dr Layla Skinnis MA 2000 has pursued an academic career in criminology and is writing

My Edinburgh



Everyone has special memories of their university years. Coming to Edinburgh means a lot of memories are enhanced by the stunning location, breathtaking weather and all-round cosmopolitan experience. In this new feature, *Edit* invites alumni to share what made their student days so memorable. If you would like to contribute to this feature in future, please email us at editor.edit@ed.ac.uk as we would love to hear from you.



**Aviâja Egede
Lynge**
MSc Social
Anthropology,
2001

Where do you live now, and why?

I live in Nuuk, Greenland, but I always wanted to have an education from a foreign country, to experience other cultures, and come back home to work and live.



When did you live in Edinburgh?

From 1999 to 2001.

What did the University do for you?

University taught me that anything is possible. English is my third language, and to complete my degree is something I'm proud of. It also gave me the opportunity to live and study with people from all around the world, and to learn to see things from different angles. The international environment was really empowering – there is a place for everyone. One of the strengths of Edinburgh is the professors, who really empower their students, even if you come from a totally different world.

What do you miss about the city?

The local Scottish spirit, and the international environment – the Scots and the Inuit definitely have some common values in terms of relating to people. I also miss the nature, the folkdances, and sometimes I also think about my favourite pub, *Finnegan's Wake*, on Victoria Street.



What was in your 'little black book' when you lived in Edinburgh?

The Mexican restaurants.

What was your first impression of Edinburgh when you arrived as a fresher?

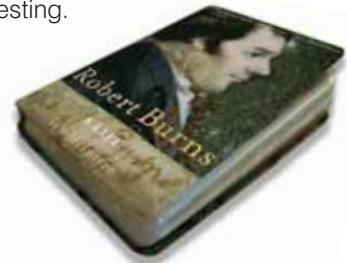
The accent! It was hard to understand the bus drivers and people in the shops. Also, the Scottish culture, which I fell in love with immediately.

What is your fondest memory of your time at the University?

I fell pregnant a few months before going home, and I saw the first scans of my daughter at the University hospital. A funny memory is when some tourists asked me to teach them a folkdance in a pub. An Inuit girl teaching Scottish dance to some Italians... awesome!

Which book influenced your life most when you were there?

Besides the *Encyclopaedia of Social Anthropology*, my English dictionary! I also found the poet Robert Burns very interesting.



What is your favourite view of the city?

My view of the Old College dome (from my room at Richmond Place). In the evening, all lit up, it looked so majestic. Whenever I missed home, or when my studies got hard, it always reminded me about the meaning of being in Edinburgh.



What would you recommend as 'unmissable' to a tourist?

Go try Scottish folkdance, have a pint in a pub, sit around Princes Street Gardens and just 'feel' the city!

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



Dr Peter Jackson BVM&S, 1960, DVM&S, 1985

Where do you live now, and why?

I live in the village of Over, about 10 miles from Cambridge, my home town. I worked at Cambridge University Veterinary School for 19 years and then for four years as Senior Tutor at St Edmund's College.

When did you live in Edinburgh?

From 1955 to 1960, whilst taking my veterinary degree. Later, from 1976 to 1980, I lived in Penicuik, whilst I was working as a lecturer in veterinary obstetrics at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary Field Station at Easter Bush.



What did the University do for you?

It prepared me for a lifetime's work in veterinary science. It also gave me a great love of Edinburgh and Scotland and its people.

What do you miss most about the city?

I miss it as an amazing and beautiful city, and my wife and I love to visit and enjoy the atmosphere whenever we can.

What was in your 'little black book' when you lived in Edinburgh?

I loved to go to the 'Dick Vet' dances on Saturday evenings at the Vet School at Summerhall. In those days we danced quicksteps, foxtrots and waltzes as well as eightsome reels.

What was your first impression of Edinburgh when you arrived as a fresher?

Arriving at Waverley Station in the wee small hours after a long journey from London. The railway company had promised my parents that the station had all its facilities available 24 hours a day. I went into the small men's waiting room, which was full of rather drunk men, and a policeman came at 6am to tip everyone out so the room could be swept. Cups of tea were not available until 7am. Back then you could go from Liberton all the way to Granton Harbour on the tram and it was a spectacular journey. In our first year we walked miles between classes, which were held at the Royal 'Dick', Pleasance, the King's Buildings and the Royal Botanic Garden. I wore my best shoes out in the first month!

In our first year we walked miles between classes, which were held at the Royal 'Dick', Pleasance, the King's Buildings and the Royal Botanic Garden.

“ ”

What is your fondest memory of your time at the University?

My graduation day was a momentous day. Twenty-five years later, I was back at the McEwan Hall to get my doctorate (DVM&S) and my wife and daughter were able to attend the ceremony.

Which book or academic staff member influenced you most when you were here?

Our anatomy teachers had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject and were interesting characters. My favourite book was *Anatomy of the Domestic Animals* by Septimus Sisson.



What is your favourite view of the city?

Looking out from the road around Arthur's Seat in Holyrood Park and picking out many landmarks, including Edinburgh Castle, St Giles' Cathedral, the Tron Kirk and the Scott Monument.

What would you recommend as 'unmissable' to a tourist?

The art galleries and the Royal Botanic Garden.



Then & Now

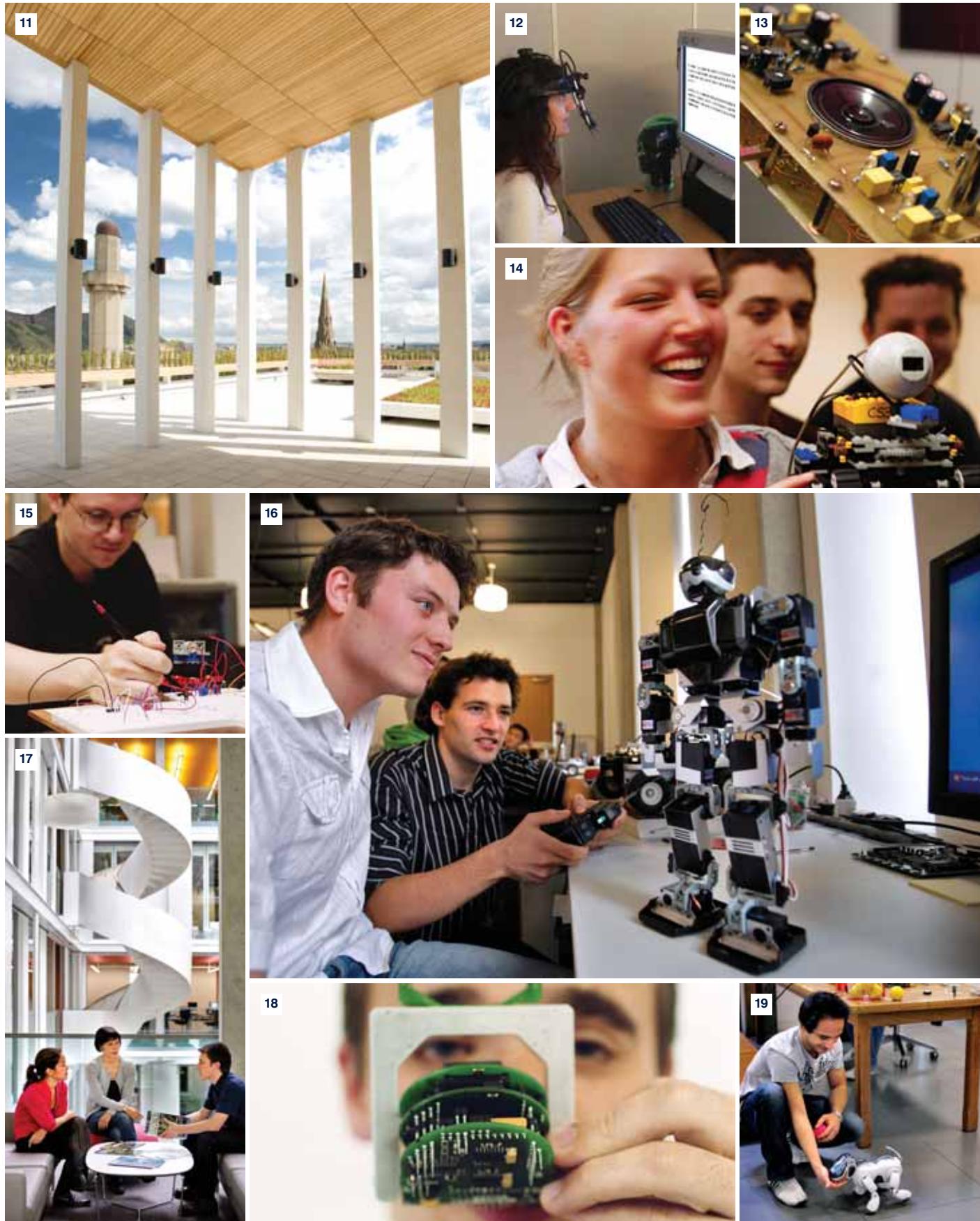
Informatics

From the basic but then state-of-the-art machines of the 1960s and '70s to today's sophisticated devices and robots, Informatics has enjoyed a long history at the University of Edinburgh. In this new section, *Edit* invites all alumni to share your memories of your time as a student – both at work and at 'play'. Email us at editor.edit@ed.ac.uk if you would like your photographs to be featured in this new section.



01 Former Head of Computer Science, Peter Schofield (left). The computers in the background, designed by the Department, were more powerful than any desktop machine on the market at the time. **02** Robin Popplestone, a pioneer of machine intelligence and robotics. **03** Freddy II, an early robot, mid 1970s. **04** Jan Proctor, a 'music and computing enthusiast', 1980s. **05** The James Clerk Maxwell Building was AI's early home. **06** Former research student Tim Lees at work. **07** A 1980s schools programme. **08** Then state-of-the-art equipment in the machine halls. **09** Gordon Brebner and the class of 1987, some of whom are now giants in the computing world, including Microsoft Research's Andy Gordon (front row). **10** A 1980s 'Women into Computing' workshop.

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



11 The state-of-the-art Informatics Forum has won major awards for its construction and environmentally sustainable design. **12** Eye-tracking devices help staff and students investigate a range of human cognitive processes, including reading, speech, dialogue and visual processing. **13** A robot in the making. **14** Undergraduate students showcase their robot, which was programmed to 'shop'. **15** An undergraduate student works on his Systems Design project. **16** Postgraduate students test-drive their equipment in the Robotics Lab. **17** The Informatics Forum's open design encourages interaction and collaboration between researchers. **18** Up close and personal in an undergraduate workshop. **19** The School's 'roving ambassador' is rewarded for his retrieval skills.

The University of Edinburgh's Talbot Rice Gallery

About Talbot Rice Gallery

Talbot Rice Gallery is the public art gallery of the University of Edinburgh. Established in 1975, it is named after David Talbot Rice, Professor of Fine Art (1934 to 1972). The Gallery is one of Scotland's leading public galleries of contemporary visual art. Rooted in an academic situation, it plays a key role in the cultural life of the city, drawing a local, national and international audience to a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events.

Friends of Talbot Rice Gallery

By organising fundraising activities, Friends help support the Gallery. Along with invitations to exhibition previews and events, as well as a programme of special lectures and outings throughout the year, the Friends group is a vital part of your cultural diary. Why not join? Contact the Gallery for membership information.

Talbot Rice Gallery

The University of Edinburgh
Old College, South Bridge
Edinburgh EH8 9YL
Scotland, UK

T: +44 (0)131 650 2210
E: info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk
W: www.trg.ed.ac.uk



Exhibitions

JANE & LOUISE WILSON

Edinburgh Art Festival

6 August to 26 September 2009

For the 2009 Edinburgh Art Festival, Talbot Rice Gallery will present an exhibition of film and photography by Jane and Louise Wilson. Nominated for the Turner Prize in 1999, they will exhibit for the first time in Edinburgh. The exhibition will include rarely seen archive material from the artists' studio, alongside a new commission.

Over the same period of time, the Georgian Gallery will host an exciting International Festival art commission by one of the most important conceptual artists working today, Joseph Kosuth. Please visit www.trg.ed.ac.uk for details.

AN ENTANGLED BANK: DARWIN & EDINBURGH

24 October to 12 December 2009

During the University's year of Darwin celebration, the Gallery will present two exciting exhibitions. In the White Gallery, a contemporary art exhibition will portray interpretations of Darwin in the 21st century. The exhibition will include the artists Christine Borland, Ilana Halperin, Brian Hewitt, Kenny Hunter and Ben Rivers.

In the Georgian Gallery, the Talbot Rice will showcase a selection of historical objects in the actual area where Darwin studied at the University between 1825 and 1827.

Image

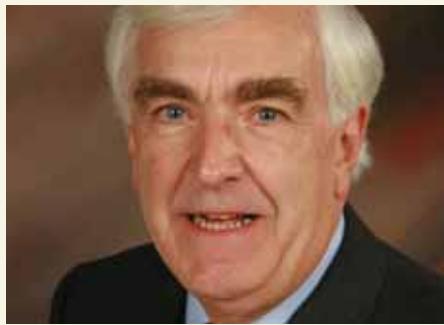
Jane and Louise Wilson, Oddments Room I (Camping Among Cannibals) 2008 C-print. Courtesy of the artist and Lisson Gallery

Billet

The General Council of the University of Edinburgh

Report By Alan Brown, Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council

The General Council is the means by which graduates have a continuing voice in the management of the University's affairs, and every graduate automatically becomes a member. Academic staff and members of the University's supreme governing body, the University Court, are also members of the General Council, which meets twice a year and has the right to comment on matters affecting the University's prosperity and wellbeing. For more information on the work of the General Council, visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.



Since my first report to you in last winter's *Edit* magazine, our Committees have been very busy and the Reports of the Conveners of the four Standing Committees may be seen in the Annex to the Billet on our website or obtained from the General Council Office.

Recently, the Vice-Convener, Secretary and I had one of our regular meetings with the office-bearers of the students' association, EUSA. There was a constructive dialogue at which they explained their intention to institute student-led Teaching Awards in the University. Other important items discussed were ensuring high quality teaching and good student feedback, career prospects, mentoring opportunities and affordable accommodation.

An important matter before the June 2009 Meeting will be the appointment of a new Secretary of the General Council. The Business Committee will invite Council to approve the appointment of Dr Simon Cunningham.

This summer the University will again be holding its pre-graduation receptions in Teviot Row House in Potterrow, and members of the Business Committee will support the University by attending these very important occasions. The General Council has also continued to be represented at City and University services and at all major public events.

In early December last year there was an enthusiastic gathering of General Council members and senior University staff in the Talbot Rice Gallery to witness the unveiling of the sculpture, entitled 'The Unknown', by the renowned young Scottish sculptor Kenny Hunter. It had been commissioned by General Council members in Scotland and the University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust to mark the 150th Anniversary of our General Council. I had the honour of presenting it to the Principal on behalf of the University and following his remarks Kenny Hunter gave an interesting insight into the production of the work. Images of it can be seen on the General Council and University websites and I will let you know when a permanent site for it has been decided.

The last Half-Yearly Meeting on 14 February, St Valentine's Day, was a lively and successful occasion. As in Washington DC, it was filmed, and the highlights may be seen in the Video Gallery on our website. It was also a test for full webcasting for future meetings. I also announced the venue for the next out-of-Edinburgh meeting on 12 June 2010, which will be in Hong Kong. Our decision, which was taken in consultation with the University, will allow the very large group of General Council members in Hong Kong and other parts of the Far East and Australasia to consider attending the meeting, and it fits well with the University's internationalisation strategy. Also we have strong historical and contemporary links with that city. Because of the significant time difference between there and the United Kingdom, the business meeting will be on Saturday afternoon at 3pm so that it may be viewed live in the UK at 8am. May I remind you that there is a General Council Survey on our website (www.general-council.ed.ac.uk) in which you can tell us more about what you

would like to see on the site. I strongly encourage you to contribute to this.

The next Half-Yearly Meeting will be held in the impressive and award-winning Informatics Forum building in Potterrow on Saturday 20 June 2009. The Pre-Lunch Reception will be held on the rooftop, which has superb views of the Edinburgh skyline, and the after-Lunch speaker will be Philippa Gregory, the historical novelist and our Alumnus of the Year 2008. Then there will be an opportunity for a tour of the building. It is a date worth putting in your diary: please note that space is limited, so book early!

This year the now traditional General Council Summer Reception in the Talbot Rice Gallery is called the Homecoming Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing and will be on Thursday 20 August from 5pm to 6.30pm. It will mark this important year-long series of Homecoming events in the Scottish calendar. The two Festival exhibitions in the Gallery this year will show the work of Jane and Louise Wilson and Joseph Kosuth. We hope that you will come and bring friends who may be visiting Scotland during the Edinburgh Festival or because of this special Homecoming Year.

To finish on a more sombre note, you need no reminding of the very difficult economic times we are going through. Our University is not immune and has challenging times ahead, so it is important for General Council members to consider what we can all do to help this old and great institution which has played such a significant role in the development and success which many of its Alumni have achieved.

I look forward to welcoming General Council members informally to the Informatics Forum in June.

Billet

General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 20 June 2009

10.30am: Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh, Crichton Street

10am to 10.30am Coffee in the Informatics Forum

10.30am General Council Meeting

After the meeting Reception: Rooftop Garden; and Lunch in the Informatics Forum Atrium (see page 36 for details)

*Please note that the Meeting will be webcast. For details, please visit <http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/livewebcasts.htm>

AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Old College, Edinburgh, on 14 February 2009 (PAPER A)
- 2 Matters arising
- 3 Report of the Business Committee
- 4 Motions (PAPER B)
- 5 Dates of future meetings of the General Council
- 6 Notice of forthcoming Elections
- 7 Presentation by Vice-Principal Professor Nigel Brown, Head of the College of Science & Engineering
- 8 Any other competent business
- 9 Adjournment

PAPER A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Edinburgh on 14 February 2009

Present:

The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom

Chancellor's Assessor, in the Chair

Mr Melvyn Cornish

University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea

Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Dr Ann Matheson

Secretary of the General Council

Dr Alan Brown

Convener of the Business Committee

65 other members

Dr MaryCatherine Burgess

Associate Chaplain to the University

1. Result of the Election of General Assessor and Members of the Business Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2008 were approved.

3. Matters arising

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

4. Report of the Business Committee

Dr Alan Brown, Convener of the Business Committee, presented the Report of the Business Committee. He recorded his thanks on behalf of the Business Committee to his predecessor, Mr Alan Johnson. He noted that the relationship between the General Council and the University had never been stronger,

The Chairman announced that the General Council Assessor elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2013 was Mrs Anne Margaret Tait. The five members of the Business Committee elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2013 were Mr W Ruthven Gemmell, Mr W Shields Henderson, Mr Neil R Hynd, Ms Jane E Kille and Professor Ian W Sutherland.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Washington DC, USA, on 14 June 2008

and he hoped to build on that success and support the University in all its endeavours. He outlined some of the highlights since February 2008. The General Council Half-Yearly Meeting, which also marked the General Council's 150th Anniversary, had been held over three days in Washington DC and had been by every measure an outstanding success. The feedback which the General Council and the University had received was very positive, and many delegates had spoken about their appreciation of members of the General Council and the University coming to them, and how particularly useful it was to hear about the University first-hand from the Principal. Sincere thanks were due to the Public Affairs Standing Committee led by Mrs Marjorie Appleton, the Secretary to the General Council, Dr Ann Matheson, and the University's Development & Alumni and Communications & Marketing departments for all the hard work that had resulted in such a successful meeting.

In Washington DC, to mark the 150th anniversary of the General Council, the Principal, on behalf of the University, had presented ceremonial robes to successive Conveners of the Business Committee and Secretaries to the General Council. They had been worn for the first time at the Half-Yearly Meeting at Georgetown University. In turn the General Council had marked its 150th Anniversary by presenting to the University a sculpture by the Scottish artist Kenny Hunter, entitled 'The Unknown'. The sculpture had been commissioned by the Council from contributions made by members of the General Council in Scotland and by members of the University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust, to whom we are most grateful. The sculpture had been presented to the Principal at a ceremony in the Talbot Rice Gallery on 3 December 2008. The Convener noted that the Public Affairs Standing Committee had been considering the location of the next away meeting in June 2010. Following consultation with

the University, the Business Committee recommended that the June 2010 out-of-Edinburgh meeting should be held in Hong Kong. These were challenging times for the University and it was vitally important to develop contacts in other regions of the world, as other universities were doing. This University had also given a very high priority to internationalisation in its plan for 2008–2012. It was important for the General Council in supporting the University to build on the success of previous meetings which have been held in parts of the world where there are significant numbers of graduates. There are also strong historical and contemporary links with Hong Kong, where many Edinburgh graduates live and work.

The February 2009 Meeting was being filmed for the first time and the results would be made available in the Video Gallery on the General Council website. The After-Lunch speaker, Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, had kindly given permission to film his address, and a video about the work of the General Council was also available on the website. Thanks were due to Dr Michael Mitchell, Chairman of the Media Group, and also to Mr Ian Conn, Communications & Marketing, and staff in Information Services for the video work.

The Convener reported that the Business Committee was a strong team, ably led by the Conveners of the four Standing Committees, whose reports were available in the Annex to the Billet. The Academic Standing Committee, with Dr Charles Swainson as Convener, had arranged an impressive programme of speakers for the coming year and all members of the Business Committee were encouraged to attend. The Constitutional Standing Committee, under the Convenership of Mr Ralph Parkinson, was planning the introduction of online General Council Elections, if possible, in 2010. The Finance and Services Standing Committee, led by Mr Ewan Jeffrey, had also arranged an excellent series of topics to be addressed by senior University staff; and the Public Affairs

Standing Committee, chaired by Mrs Marjorie Appleton, had been much involved in planning the events surrounding the 150th Anniversary of the General Council.

The Committee had said farewell to outgoing members, Mr Fred Lawson, Mrs Patricia Spark, Ms Diana Webster and Dr Ian Wotherspoon, and to Mr Neil Hynd, who had completed his term as Vice-Convener. They had all contributed significantly to the work of the Business Committee and its Standing Committees. Dr Frances Dow, who was Convener of the Academic Standing Committee, had been elected Vice-Convener in succession. The Committee welcomed Professor Ronald Asher, Mr Michael Conway, Miss Doreen Davidson, Mrs Mary McGregor and Mr Bruce Rae to the Business Committee. The Convener noted that the Rector was not able to be present at the meeting because of a family bereavement, and he thanked him for his assistance to the General Council and for his contribution to the work of the University over the last three years.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener's remarks, and the record of the discussion that followed the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 20 June 2009 in the Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh. Any motions for discussion at that Meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 1 April 2009. The following statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 13 February 2010 in Old College, University of Edinburgh. Any motions for discussion at the meeting on 13 February 2010 should be

Billet

received in the General Council Office by 25 November 2009.

6. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There would be elections for five members of the Business Committee in February 2010. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office should be received in the General Council Office by 25 November 2009.

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

The Principal said that in presenting the *Annual Review* for the year 2007–2008 he would also give some commentary on the most recent six months. In terms of the *Annual Review*, there was a very high and rising level of external research funding; an increasing number of high quality student applications from all over the world; and a strengthening global reputation and pattern of international partnerships. There were also very strong student sporting, artistic and professional achievements, and the student body was very successful in a wide range of domains. One of the major parts of the *Review* dealt with revitalising the heart of the University campus, the flagship of which was the new Informatics Forum. The University had one of the most important groups of computer scientists and artificial intelligence experts in the world, now united in a wonderful building that was a credit to everyone involved. In addition, the second stage of the Main Library project was in progress; there was work ongoing on the Adam Ferguson Building and the Appleton Tower; and planning work for the David Hume Tower and the William Robertson Building was in progress. The Principal paid a very warm tribute to Director of Estates, Mr Angus Currie, and his colleagues, for their success in moving the University into a position where very high

quality buildings were delivered to time and on budget.

The University was also now Europe's research hub for Islamic Studies. His Royal Highness Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal had made a £8 million award for a Centre of Study of Islam in the Modern World, with the aim of building a mutual understanding between the contemporary Arab and Western worlds. The University was in a strong position with the UK Centre and with the support of the Kingdom Foundation, which built on very distinguished scholarship and on strategic partnerships. The Principal said that in his view this was only the start, and already young scholars from all over the world, particularly the Arab world, were coming to Edinburgh to be part of these exciting developments. There were also parallels with the Confucius Institute, where the University had built a really major presence in the understanding of Chinese language, history, culture and further developments.

There was also very important work on Antarctica and climate change, where Professor Martin Siegert, Head of the School of GeoSciences, was studying a 160m deep sub-glacial lake, Lake Ellsworth. There were University of Edinburgh scientists now in West Antarctica, and the University of Edinburgh flag was flying. The University had a world centre for animal bioscience. Professor David Hume, who had led an equivalent centre there, had been recruited from Australia. The Principal paid a particular tribute to Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, who had led the move of Roslin Institute back to the University, and to Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary School. The work on international relations – the very successful General Council Meeting in Washington DC that had been referred to – celebrated the University's US links. It was very important for the 1,500 American students who were here in Edinburgh to know that the University was able to go to the United States. The General Council Meeting there demonstrated the University's

international nature and its international strengths. The Principal noted that the University was immensely appreciative of the 150th Anniversary sculpture gift that had been received from the General Council, a wonderful sculpture from artist Kenny Hunter.

The University was much involved in work related to the environment, including a hybrid car that used hydraulic power to supplement a conventional engine. It was a commercial innovation, which was being developed with an industrial partner, Artemis Intelligent Power. In sports, the Principal paid tribute to Mr Jim Aitken, Head of the Centre for Sports and Exercise, and noted that the University had tremendous provision and success at all levels. A Sports Hall of Fame had been set up, and the first three entries were a posthumous entry for Eric Liddell, and then Katherine Grainger and Andy Irvine. It had been extremely good timing just before the Beijing Olympics, and so Chris Hoy with his three gold medals would be inducted into the Hall of Fame at some point in the future. A very successful event had been held in Hong Kong with 12 athletes, 200 attendees, including the heads of the major Chinese universities, Chinese politicians, and the Prime Minister and his wife. The University's Centre for Sports and Exercise now had 14,000 members, who used the facilities on a weekly or more frequent basis, and 2,000 other users. The *Annual Review* also highlighted the work on stem cell therapy, where the University's leadership position in stem cells attracted a lot of attention. It was focused on neuro-degenerative diseases, with the potential for improvements to Parkinson's disease and MS, but also in regard to the liver through Professor John Iredale's work and to bone and cartilage through that of Dr Brendon Noble.

The Principal noted that the financial figures in the *Annual Review* were very good. It represented the sixth year of real-term growth, and the sixth year of a genuine surplus. Student applications were slightly down to 46,000 from 49,000 but, in fact,

they had increased because the UCAS procedure had changed. Postgraduate students were up 400 and international students were up 550, and that was exactly what the University management team had been aiming to achieve. There had been a spectacular increase in competitive research grants at £212 million, a rise from the year before of £203 million, which confirmed that slightly less than 40 per cent of the University's income now came from competitive research grants.

The Principal outlined the current circumstances of the University following the world economic downturn. The challenges the University was facing were the likelihood of less international research money; concern about pension funds; severe volatility in energy prices; and donors having to pause because they were faced with financial challenges that they were not expecting. There were issues about the stability of contractors; about tax receipts at UK level, because Research Council money came from the UK taxpayer; and about property sales. At the Scottish level there was pressure on the devolved budget (29 per cent of the University's funding was formula funding from the Scottish Government). In facing these challenges, the Principal said that in terms of reputation and financially the University was one of the strongest universities in the world and comfortably in the top five in the United Kingdom. He believed that universities were counter-cyclical, and that as unemployment went up applications for postgraduate taught courses would go up, too. The University's international partnerships were going very well, and there was a very strong student and staff body.

The Principal noted that in his experience as a University manager, the external environment was certainly the worst he had ever seen. To address the situation, the University had been undertaking very detailed planning in the University offices since the summer. The University had been working with great care, and controlling expenditure with tremendous care.

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise in December had given the University of Edinburgh very good results. Clinical Medicine, Linguistics and Veterinary Medicine had now joined Computer Science as being among the best in the UK, and the University had also seen a 'reputational' uplift across the board. The Principal noted that the current year would be very difficult, and that it was unlikely that the University could achieve the surplus that had been hoped for at this time last year, but he was convinced that with rising reputation, rising student applications, rising strengths and perceived strengths in research, the University would do very well. There was wonderful support from students and staff, and he tremendously appreciated the support of the General Council.

The full text of the Principal's remarks, and the record of the discussion that followed the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

8. Any other competent business

The Chairman said that it would be appropriate to ask the meeting to give support to the recommendation that there be a further away meeting of the General Council in due course in June 2010 in Hong Kong. By a show of hands, the proposal was supported, with three against.

9. 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. Dr MaryCatherine Burgess closed the meeting with a benediction.

The Annex to the Billet contains supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of the presentation, and the Business Committee's report to the meeting on 14 February 2009. General Council members may request it by post from: Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel +44 (0)131 650 2152; email General.Council@ed.ac.uk or copies may be collected at the location of the Council Meeting from 30 minutes before.

PAPER B (MOTIONS)

Motion:

That the General Council appoints Dr Simon Cunningham, MA PhD, as Secretary of the General Council for a period of four years from 1 August 2009.

Preamble:

The Business Committee has been considering the introduction of online voting for all elections, and is now recommending to the General Council that online voting should be introduced.

Motion:

(a) That the General Council approves the introduction of online elections.
 (b) That, if (a) is approved, that the General Council approves the following amendments:

- (i) That paragraph 3 of Ordinance 198 be amended to facilitate online elections;
- (ii) That paragraph 4 of Ordinance 198, amended by Ordinance 205, be amended in order to facilitate online elections;
- (iii) That paragraph 5 of the Constitutional Arrangements dealing with Business Committee elections be amended.

These paragraphs are quoted verbatim in Parts I and II of the Regulations for the General Council Elections and therefore the relevant sections of the Regulations would be amended to reflect these changes.

Billet

The full amended text may be found on the General Council website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/businessnewspapers, and copies may be obtained, on request, from the General Council Office, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel: +44 (0)131 650 2152; Email: general.council@ed.ac.uk. Copies of the full amended text will also be available on the day of the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 20 June 2009.

Motion:

The Business Committee has noted that there is no provision in the Constitutional Arrangements for members of the Business Committee to be removed from office were any of them considered to bring the office into disrepute.

Most constitutional arrangements elsewhere make such provision, and it was considered that the Constitutional Arrangements for the Business Committee should also contain such provision. The Business Committee, on the recommendation of the Constitutional Standing Committee, agreed to recommend to the General Council that it approves the incorporation of the following paragraphs 5.11 and 5.12 into the Constitutional Arrangements, with the renumbering of subsequent paragraphs.

5.11 Any member of the Business Committee who brings the office into disrepute may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority of all its members.

5.12 A member of the Business Committee, who has been removed from office in accordance with the procedures outlined in

para. 5.11, or his or her representative, may appeal in writing addressed to the Secretary of the General Council, against such removal. Such appeal shall be considered at the next statutory half-yearly meeting of the General Council at which the appellant or his or her representative shall be invited to address the meeting. The meeting of the General Council at which the appeal is heard may uphold or reject it. A member of the Business Committee may not attend any meeting of the Business Committee or any of its standing Committees pending the outcome of the appeal against removal from office.

Proposed by: **The Convener of the Business Committee**

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



Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee, left, and Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council, in Washington DC, June 2008

Presentation of Gowns

In a delightful short ceremony at the start of last June's General Council Meeting in Georgetown University, Washington DC, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, University Principal and Vice-Chancellor, presented General Council gowns to the Convener of the Business Committee and the Secretary of the General Council, in succession.

The ceremony was part of the celebrations surrounding the 150th Anniversary of the University's General Council, and marked the University's appreciation of the long association with the General Council from its creation in 1858.

The gowns were specially designed by Mr John Cormack of Ede and Ravenscroft.

General Council Website Survey

The Media Group, which is chaired by Dr Michael Mitchell, has recently been set up by the Business Committee, and is keen to know what you think of the General Council website. The website has been significantly enhanced over the last year and now contains many interesting videos and photographs from its meetings and events as well as much useful information.

A short Survey seeking the views of members has been placed on the General Council website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/news. Members are warmly invited to browse the website and then to complete the General Council Survey by clicking on the button 'Start Survey Here'. The information from the Survey will be used to guide future developments on the General Council website, so please do participate!

General Council Online Elections

The General Council is preparing to introduce online elections with effect from February 2010 if possible. The aim is to make it easier for members of Council to vote and to increase participation in elections for General Council Assessors and members of the Business Committee.

For those who do not have web access, it will be possible to request a postal vote. **Please complete the sheet enclosed with your copy of Edit, and return it in the enclosed addressed return envelope.** This will enable you to vote online in General Council Elections, update your contact details and find out about discounts you are entitled to as an alumnus.

Officers

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

2009
ex-officio

General Council Assessors on the University Court:

A Margaret Tait, BSc	2009
Douglas A Connell, LLB	2011
Ann M Smyth, BSc, PhD, MPhil	2011

Business Committee:

Convener: Alan D G Brown, MB ChB, FRCOG, FRCS Ed	2012
Vice-Convener: Frances D Dow, MA, DPhil	2012

A	Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Charles P Swainson, MB ChB, FRCPE, FFPHM	2009
F	Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee: J Ewan Jeffrey, BSc, CA	2009
P	Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Marjorie D Appleton, BArch (Hons), RIBA, FRIAS	2009
C	Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: Ralph V Parkinson, MA Geography (Hons)	2011

Members

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

Chancellor's Assessor:		
The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, MA, LLB, QC, FRSE, FRIAS		ex officio
C Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartS		2009
A William Ruthven Gemmell, LLB (co-opted)		2009
C Francis R MacT Brewis, MA		2010
A Helen M Campbell, MA, BA, MNCHM, RSHom, BSc Open		2010
F T Finlay Marshall, MA, FFA		2010
P Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD		2010
F James Murray, BSc, MS, MIEE, MIHT		2010
C Gordon D Cairns, LLB		2011
A Alan D Simpson, BSc, PhD		2011
P Frank I Stewart, MB ChB, MA		2011
F Hilary A Vandore, MA, MBA		2011
A R E Asher, BA, PhD, DLitt, FRSE		2012
P Michael C Conway, MA		2012
P Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD		2012
F Mary M McGregor, MA, PGC		2012
C Bruce L K Rae, LLB		2012

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary T Scott, BA



Hong Kong's central skyline from Victoria Peak

June 2010 General Council Meeting in Hong Kong

General Council members are warmly invited to put the date 12 June 2010 in their diaries. On this date, the General Council's Half-Yearly Meeting will take place in Hong Kong. There will also be a weekend programme of events from 11 to 13 June 2010, organised in association with the University's Development & Alumni. Further details will be available on the General Council website (www.general-council.ed.ac.uk), and in future issues of *Billet* within *Edit*. Information will also be given in Development & Alumni's monthly e-Newsletter. We warmly invite you to participate in this very special weekend!

Homecoming 2009 Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing 20 August 2009

As part of Homecoming 2009, the General Council will hold a Reception and Exhibition Viewing for General Council members and their friends in the Talbot Rice Gallery on Thursday 20 August 2009 from 5pm to 6.30pm. There will be an opportunity to see the Festival 2009 exhibitions on Jane and Louise Wilson, 'The Wilson Twins', who are best known for their multiscreen video installations and photo pieces; and on the work of the conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth. The Reception will be held in the Gallery's Georgian Room. Tickets may be ordered online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/festivalevent or by post (see request form, opposite).



The February 2009 General Council Lunch

Before the General Council Lunch on 14 February 2009, left to right: Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; Dr Alan Brown, Convenor of the Business Committee; Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, Director of the Centre for Regenerative Medicine, University of Edinburgh; Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; and Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council

The June 2009 General Council Lunch

Following the Half-Yearly Meeting, members of the General Council, other alumni, partners, family and friends are cordially invited to the General Council Lunch on Saturday 20 June 2009 in the Informatics Forum, Crichton Street, University of Edinburgh.

Dr Philippa Gregory was born in Kenya in 1954, and moved to England with her family. She undertook her postgraduate studies on 18th-century literature in the University of Edinburgh and graduated PhD in 1985. Her first novel, *Wideacre*, was written as she completed her PhD and became an instant worldwide bestseller. *The Other Boleyn Girl*, a runaway bestseller that stormed the US market, told the story of the little-known sister of Anne Boleyn, and later became a film starring Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman.

If you would like to attend the next General Council Lunch, please complete and return the form, opposite, no later than Monday 15 June 2009. Tickets at £19.00 include Pre-Lunch Wine Reception and Lunch. Table wines will be available for purchase at the meal. There will be a short Tour of the Informatics Forum after Lunch from 3pm to 4pm. If you would like to join the Tour, please complete the form on the inner rear cover. Please note that places for the Lunch and Tour are limited, so please book early!



Dr Philippa Gregory

General Council Webcasts

Please note that the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 20 June 2009 will be a live webcast from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Click on the link at <http://www.generalcouncil.ed.ac.uk/livewebcasts.htm>, and you will be able to follow the proceedings at the Meeting in Edinburgh from anywhere in the world.

The After-Lunch Address by Dr Philippa Gregory, the historical novelist, will also be webcast from the same link at approximately 2.10pm. Please take the opportunity to join in!

The June 2009 General Council Lunch

Informatics Forum, Crichton Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday 20 June 2009, 12.30pm for 1pm

Please send me _____ tickets (£19.00) for the General Council Lunch.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of guest(s) _____

Tour of the Informatics Forum

There will be a short tour of the Informatics Forum after Lunch from 3pm to 4pm. If you wish to go on the tour, please specify the number/s attending in the box provided to assist with organisation.

Please complete and return this form to Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, General Council Office, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, Scotland, UK. Alternatively you may order online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/events.htm. **Closing date for applications: Monday 15 June 2009**

Homecoming 2009 Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing

20 August 2009

Please send me _____ tickets (£10.00 per person) for the Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please complete and return this form to Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, General Council Office, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, Scotland, UK. Alternatively you may order online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/festivalevent. **Closing date for applications: Friday 14 August 2009**

Your gift to better health for future generations



Leaving a legacy to support medical research at The University of Edinburgh will help us to develop new treatments for major diseases including cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, motor neurone disease, diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

Make a gift in your Will and help us continue this vital work.

I wish to help The University of Edinburgh continue its pioneering work

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel No. _____ Email _____

Please tick one of the following (you do not need to return the form if you have already notified us of your pledge)

- I have already included a gift to the University in my Will
- Please send me information on how to make a gift in my Will

or contact Morag Murison, tel: +44 (0)131 650 2240, email morag.murison@ed.ac.uk

www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Return to: The University of Edinburgh Development Trust, FREEPOST EH565, Edinburgh EH8 0BR

DATA PROTECTION: Your data may be used by the University, its agents and recognised alumni clubs, for a range of alumni activities including sending publications, offering benefits and services, organising reunions and in our fundraising activities. If you would prefer not to be included in any of these activities, please tick this box . We will contact you to establish and record your wishes.

The University of Edinburgh Development Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC004307.
The University of Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC005336.



The University of
Edinburgh Campaign