



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

# bulletin\*

SPRING 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE

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## bulletin\*

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## editorial

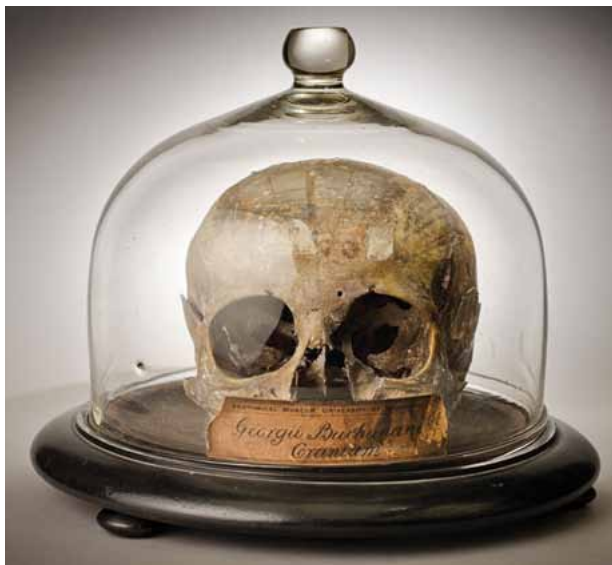
Welcome to the spring edition of *bulletin*, marking the beginning of an already packed 2012.

This year will see the publication of the University's new *Strategic Plan*, outlining the University's goals and priorities for the next four years. On page 5, Senior Vice-Principal Professor Nigel Brown explains more about what can be expected.

An ongoing area of strategic importance for the University is enhancing the quality of the student experience, and on pages 10–13 we look behind the scenes at the University's Academic Registry, whose vital work feeds into every element of the student journey.

The University's student community now extends far beyond the city of Edinburgh, as Dilys Rose is finding out on page 14, where she talks about the launch of the new online Masters in Creative Writing.

As always, this edition of *bulletin* is full of University success stories, including our cover interview with Li-Fi inventor Professor Harald Haas, on pages 8–9, and our regular round-up of staff awards and achievements on pages 20–22.



The skull of 16th-century humanist and historian George Buchanan is just one of the many fascinating objects held by the University's Anatomical Museum. For a snapshot of the collection, turn to pages 16–17.

# University invests in student experience

The University is to invest £4 million over the next three years to develop a support system for students.

The ongoing financial commitment will help students to enhance their time at Edinburgh, from their first experience as a new undergraduate, through to their transition to life beyond University.

"The student population has been growing and the student demographic has been changing," explains Professor Dai Hounsell, Vice-Principal Academic Engagement. "There is a wider range of students at the University, all with different needs, and we need to ensure that the support we're providing them with makes good use of the most up-to-date strategies and technologies."

The money will fund a variety of initiatives, including a new system of Personal Tutors. Every undergraduate student will be appointed a Personal Tutor who will help students review their academic progress, reflect on how their learning can help them pursue their future development, and connect with their peers.

As part of this process there will be new Senior Tutor roles created and each of



the three Colleges will appoint a Dean of Students. Information technology tools will be created to facilitate interactions between Personal Tutors and students, to help students reflect on their performance.

"We are aiming to foster even greater interaction between academic staff and students and to help students focus on their future careers," says Professor Hounsell.

The new support system will be phased in at the start of the 2012/13 academic year.

We're aiming to foster even greater interaction between staff and students to help students focus on their future careers.

*Professor Dai Hounsell*

# New University Rector elected



Peter McColl, a writer, activist and charity worker from Edinburgh, has been named as the new University Rector, following an uncontested election. He succeeds writer and broadcaster Iain Macwhirter.

"I am delighted to have been elected Rector of the University of Edinburgh," comments Mr McColl. "I will ensure that staff and students are listened to at the top of the University. The Rector's position as Chair of the University Court is a vital part of good governance, and I look forward to ensuring that this continues."

Mr McColl worked as an adviser to Mark Ballard MSP, and was the politician's assessor, while he held the post of Rector at Edinburgh, from 2006 to 2009.

"Students want a Rector who will ensure their voice is heard in the University and who is committed to free education," says James McAsh, student supporter of Mr McColl's nomination.

The Rector's position as Chair of University Court is a vital part of good governance.

"Peter's experience in dealing with the University and commitment to getting the best for Edinburgh students means he can do a great job."

Mr McColl has also worked for the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and was Chair of Transition Scotland Support from 2008 to 2011. He is an editor of the Bright Green blog, and has been voted top Green blogger by *Total Politics* magazine.

Mr McColl attended Edinburgh in 1998 to study geography and holds both undergraduate and masters degrees from the University. He was Vice-President of the Students' Association from 2001 to 2002 and had been President of University-based student society People and Planet prior to that.



# SRA rallies interest on the road

The Student Recruitment and Admissions (SRA) team has begun its six-month programme of recruitment events and activities.

Between January and July, the team participates in more than 75 targeted recruitment events, hosts information sessions for teachers and delivers talks to prospective students from all over the UK.

"Although many people are surprised at how early the recruitment cycle begins, it is crucial that the University is represented at these key events to ensure that potential students have access to as much information about the University as possible when making key decisions," explains Niall Bradley, the University's Head of UK and EU Recruitment.

Many of the recruitment events will be targeting students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who plan to start university in 2013. Attendance at these events provides an opportunity to attract potential students at the beginning of their decision-making process.

The team will also engage with teachers and advisers from key schools, by

hosting information sessions across the UK.

"Teachers and advisers play a crucial role in helping their students to make an informed choice about higher education – so it is vital that they're getting all of the information they need to help their students," Mr Bradley adds.

"We focus on providing clear information about our admissions policies, and about student funding and scholarships, to try to counter any myths or confusion which may have built up about the University."



## UCAS applications rise

Overall undergraduate applications to the University of Edinburgh have risen 15 per cent, compared with last year, UCAS figures reveal. The sector as a whole has reported a 7 per cent decline in undergraduate applications.

Applications to Edinburgh made via UCAS for entry in September 2012 have increased by 9 per cent from the UK as a whole. Applications are up by 15 per cent from those living in Scotland, 3 per cent from England and 23 per cent from Wales. The only decrease in applications is from those living in Northern Ireland. EU and overseas applications have risen by 24 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. It is the first year that the figures have included Edinburgh College of Art, following the merger last summer.

# Edinburgh hailed as HPC pioneer

Peter Turfy



The future's bright: HECToR's new look, designed by Lily Johnson, the 16-year-old winner of a HECToR-themed schools art competition, was unveiled at the launch.

Edinburgh's pioneering role in the development of high-performance computing (HPC) was praised at a University event, heralding the next phase of the UK's supercomputing programme.

Speaking at the event, George Chiu, Advanced High Performance Systems Research Scientist at IBM, commended the role of Edinburgh, and in particular Richard Kenway, Tait Professor of Mathematical Physics, in the development of IBM's Blue Gene supercomputing project.

"The three-way alliance between Columbia [University], Edinburgh and IBM served as a fertile ground for the cross fertilisation of ideas," said Mr Chiu. "In the coming decade, I'm looking

forward to collaborating with Edinburgh and Columbia... I believe the talent from the three organisations, and the relentless pursuit of excellence, will flourish into a long-lasting contribution to the HPC development."

The University provides a home for two UK supercomputing facilities – HECToR (High-End Computing Terascale Resources) and Blue Gene/Q. The next phase of development for these machines will see HECToR double its performance and Blue Gene/Q upgraded to become one of the fastest computers in Europe.

This increased computing capacity and performance will help support UK researchers to address a range of scientific challenges.

Angus Blackburn



## English Literature marks 250 years

English Literature is this year celebrating its 250th anniversary with a packed programme of activities and events designed to involve students, staff and alumni, as well as the wider Edinburgh community and many notable individuals from the literary world.

Events include readings, talks and seminars on topics related to literature and writing, and an exhibition, "City of Words", on literary criticism and literary writing in Edinburgh, which opens in the University's Main Library in August.

The University will also be seeking to identify the best winner of the James Tait Black Prizes. Founded in 1919, these University-run literary awards reward writing in fiction and biography. Previous

recipients include Ian McEwan, Zadie Smith, A S Byatt, Salman Rushdie, D H Lawrence and Graham Greene.

This year English Literature students and staff will review all the previous winners and announce a shortlist of their favourites at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August. A panel of writers and celebrity alumni will then decide the final winner.

To find out more about the anniversary and related events, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/news/events/english](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/events/english).

Discover how English Literature is providing opportunities for budding writers all over the world on page 14.

## New awards for early-career researchers

The University has launched 100 fellowships targeted at promising early-career researchers. These awards, titled Chancellor's Fellowships, will be granted for five years and will be based in any one of the University's 22 Schools.

The University is looking for candidates whose research has the potential to enhance the international reputation of

the University and who have a strong commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate training. Academics wanting to work in interdisciplinary fields are particularly welcome.

Applications can be made through the University's recruitment website. The closing date is 16 April.

www.jobs.ed.ac.uk



## The bulletin question

**Why does the University need a new Strategic Plan?**

**Professor Nigel Brown**, Senior Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy explains:

The University's *Strategic Plan 2008–2012* set the goals and general direction of the University throughout the last four years, and we are now revising these for the next four-year period, until 2016. Our core values, our vision and our mission, and our strategic goals of excellence in learning and teaching, excellence in research, and excellence in commercialisation and knowledge exchange, will not change.

However, the environment in which we operate is changing markedly – reduction in capital investment, changing priorities of the research funders, encouragement for institutional collaboration, and student expectations, for example, require us to respond. We have also achieved many of the objectives of the current *Plan*. Therefore, some enablers and strategic themes will change.

Court, Senate and the major University committees have been consulted. Staff focus groups have contributed significantly. Everyone has had the ability to influence the *Strategic Plan* and a draft will be available for further comment. We welcome your input.

# research in focus



## Ipad app helps kids with autism

Education and Informatics researchers have developed an online tool that could help children with autism, from as young as 18 months, improve their social skills. The research team has developed a new Ipad game, called FindMe, which challenges children to find a character in different virtual scenarios. Players simply tap the character to move on to the next, more complex level. Developers hope that the game will help children with autism practise basic socialising skills before entering nursery or primary school. The app is the first part of Click-East, a proposed programme of University research into using new technology to provide support for individuals with autism.



## Step closer to Antarctic lake access

A University-led project to explore a subglacial lake in Antarctica has edged closer to realising its objectives. This December, scientists will bore through three kilometres of ice to access Lake Ellsworth, a subglacial body of water that has lain undisturbed for many thousands of years. Earlier this year a team of British Antarctic Survey engineers returned to the UK after travelling from the West Antarctic ice sheet to put in place equipment and supplies to enable the next stage of the study. Scientists have been planning to access the lake for more than 15 years. Researchers hope their quest will yield new knowledge about the evolution of life on Earth and other planets.



### SIMULATING SOUND

Music lecturer and acoustics researcher Dr Stefan Bilbao has been identified as an academic with potential, receiving a European Research Council Starting Grant, worth €1.5 million, for his project Listening to the Future: Next-generation Sound Synthesis through Simulation. The Starting Grant scheme helps support promising researchers to carry out independent research in Europe. Dr Bilbao will work with EPCC staff to investigate how to replicate natural-sounding synthetic sounds that emulate real instruments and how to recreate sound that cannot be produced by conventional synthesis methods or acoustic instruments.

### DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS

The University is to partner pharmaceutical company Glaxosmithkline (GSK) to discover and develop drugs to treat severe acute pancreatitis. The collaboration will build on work carried out by College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine researchers Mr Damian Mole and Dr Scott Webster. The medics recently uncovered a molecular mechanism believed to have a major role in triggering life-threatening multiple organ failure – a condition that develops in one of four cases of acute pancreatitis. The deal was negotiated by Edinburgh BioQuarter, which works closely with University researchers to help nurture the commercialisation of life sciences research.

### BUILDING HEALTH SOLUTIONS

James Smith, Professor of African and Development Studies, has secured a Senior Investigator grant from the European Research council. The five-year award, worth almost €1.7 million, has been granted to a research project called Investigating Networks of Zoonosis Innovation that will analyse the policies and projects that have shaped research into and control of Human African Trypanosomiasis, a parasitic disease also known as sleeping sickness. As well as working with colleagues in the School of Social and Political Science, Professor Smith will collaborate with Professor Sue Welburn, Director of the University's Global Health Academy.

...awards news...awards news...awards news...awards news...awards news



## Egypt uncovered

Researchers from the Clinical Research Imaging Centre and the University's Forensic Anthropology section have helped to unwrap Egyptian secrets for the National Museum of Scotland's Fascinating Mummies exhibition. Using CT scanning equipment, the researchers looked inside Egyptian mummies, never before unwrapped, to learn more about what lay beneath. Their discoveries form a central part of the exhibition, which runs until 27 May 2012.



Mummy and x-ray of Ankhhor, a temple priest.

## What I'm discovering...



**Dr Wendy Ugolini** is exploring Scottish diasporic military identities from 1880 to the present day, as part of a joint initiative between the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies and National Museums Scotland.

"Our research project aims to develop a critical understanding of the complexity of connections between Scotland and its diasporic communities, addressing wider questions of ethnicity, identity and national belonging through an examination of the construction of

'military Scottishness' overseas. It will focus on the period of the mass migration of the late 19th century up to the present day.

"To date, no academic or comparative study has been undertaken on the topic of Scottish diasporic military identity among the different Commonwealth nations and the social and cultural history of this military phenomenon remains relatively obscure.

"In March, we hosted an international workshop bringing together leading academics and museum curators from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK. We will follow this with a conference, to be held at the National Museum of Scotland in September 2012.

"Our research will help to inform the themes of an exhibition scheduled to mark the 2014 centenary exhibition on the First World War at the National War Museum at Edinburgh Castle. It will also enhance the working relationship between the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics & Archaeology and National Museums of Scotland, laying the groundwork for future collaboration and facilitating knowledge transfer and data sharing."

To find out more about this project, email [wendy.ugolini@ed.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.ugolini@ed.ac.uk).

## researchers in the spotlight

**bulletin** highlights some of the University's research milestones that have been hitting the headlines.

### FERTILITY STUDY CREATES NEWS

Dr Evelyn Telfer of the University's Institute of Ecology and Resource Management has been making an international media splash with her role in a groundbreaking stem cell study. The cell biologist, in collaboration with US-based research partners, has found a way to prompt human egg production from ovarian stem cells, potentially leading to new treatment for infertility. The story was captured in numerous international publications including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, *Canadian Press* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

### JOINING THE CONVERSATION

University academics are contributing to ongoing media debate about Scottish independence. Professor Tom Devine has been quoted in news sources all over the world, from Canada to Pakistan, the Netherlands to the US, on what is becoming a hot media topic. Professor Stephen Tierney, Professor Thomas Giegerich, Professor Drew Scott, Dr Ailsa Henderson, Dejan Stjepanovic, and Dr Nicola McEwan are also among University staff members who have added their voices to coverage of independence.

### DELVING INTO DARK MATTER

A global astronomy project has been hitting headlines all over the world. Dr Catherine Heymans is among the University astronomers who are part of an international team of researchers mapping dark matter on the largest scale ever observed. The project has been followed heavily in the media, with the *Daily Telegraph*, *Sun*, *Sunday Times*, *El Mundo*, the Discovery Channel and Fox, among the newspapers and broadcasters covering the story.

### LI-FI IN THE LIMELIGHT

Professor Harald Haas's Li-Fi concept is attracting worldwide media attention. The mobile communications expert's innovation features in the *Economist*, *Independent*, *New Zealand Herald*, *Great Mind Yuan News* and *Wired* magazine, among others.

Read an interview with Harald on page 8.



# The light fantastic

**Professor Harald Haas has invented pioneering technology to provide a greener, safer, cheaper and more flexible way to access the internet. Chris Small talks to the researcher about his light bulb moment.**

Laurence Winram

For a man who may become known for revolutionising the way we communicate and share information, Professor Harald Haas is remarkably unfazed by the buzz surrounding him and his invention.

"At the moment it's not a big achievement," he says. "It's only a big achievement if it takes off."

Chair of Mobile Communications at the Institute for Digital Communications in the University's School of Engineering, Harald has spent almost a decade researching the potential of visible light communication (VLC).

Now his work is paying off in the shape of a radical new product: Harald has created a light-based alternative to Wi-Fi, sparking a race to market and labelling him, appropriately, as a luminary in his field.

VLC technology uses light emitting diode (LED) bulbs to transmit data at the same time as light. Harald found that by embedding a special electronic chip in these bulbs, a large volume of data could be streamed using light in various forms – visible, infrared and ultraviolet.

The technology, dubbed Li-Fi, has profound and diverse implications for industry and personal communication, with the potential for films to be watched through lamplight at home; aeroplane passengers to use mobile phones and the internet safely on flights; and deep-sea divers to communicate using LEDs. Its development is being spearheaded by the School of Engineering's D-LIGHT project, led by Harald.

VLC is an old and relatively untapped technology. Fittingly, Harald's office is in the Alexander Graham Bell Building, and the iconic inventor's work resonates: prior

to finessing his most famous creation, Alexander Graham Bell's photophone used a beam of light to send messages. That was in 1880.

More than a century later, Harald has had to exercise some patience before reaching his "Eureka" moment.

"The problem was always that optical wireless communication has been around and used in infrared remote controls for TVs but the data rate is very low," he explains. "We have used a technique that is known in radio frequency communications as OFDM [orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing] and we knew it had a disadvantage for radio frequency [RF]."

"But we managed to turn a fundamental disadvantage of OFDM when applied to RF into an advantage for VLC by enabling high-data rates, faster than Wi-Fi, with





I know the opportunities are enormous and my goal is to try to help make this the leading company in this area for a number of years. I want to leave a legacy that people talk about afterwards.

line-up of dynamic thinkers that included philosopher Alain de Botton, historian Niall Ferguson and artist Jae Rhim Lee. Harald's TED outing was the first time he had publicly used the term Li-Fi, a name that has spread instantly.

"The TED talk was not only beneficial for us but for everyone who's been working with applied light communications," Harald says. "Since then it has given us pronounced visibility across the globe. Even in October I heard people in Norway, Israel and the US have formed the Li-Fi Consortium and now everyone talks about Li-Fi."

The list of advantages Li-Fi could yield is, he says, "really quite long".

"It's green, it's safe, it's available and it's free," he explains. "We use LED light, which is energy efficient. A five-watt LED bulb produces as much light as a 60-watt incandescent light, so by some calculations if the world replaced all its incandescent light bulbs it could save about 100 nuclear power plants.

"It's also secure. We're all afraid of Wi-Fi that can be intercepted outside. It will be more difficult with Li-Fi because light will primarily stay within rooms and not penetrate through walls. And it's free – we don't have to license the light spectrum, it's 10,000 times larger than the radio frequency spectrum."

Originally from Nuremberg in Germany, Harald worked as an engineer before coming to Edinburgh for PhD study in radio frequency wireless communication, between 1997 and 2001. A stint as project manager at Siemens (Information and Communication Mobile Networks) followed. He then joined Jacobs University Bremen as Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, before returning to the School of Engineering in 2007.

"The University gives me the flexibility and freedom to pursue my research. It supported my VLC work early on," he reveals.

"What I find very useful is that internally I have many colleagues with whom I can collaborate – in Informatics or even in Medicine I find people who are interested in my research."

The next step for Harald is to turn his venture into a commercial success through his spin-out company.

"I know the opportunities are enormous and my goal is to try to help make this the leading company in this area for a number of years. I want to leave a legacy that people talk about afterwards," he says.

But if his research does result in a technology that's embraced around the world, the seeds of its success won't lie in an orthodox approach to work.

"I don't like doing things that are mainstream, that everyone else does," he admits. "That could fail but sometimes it brings big advantages – curiosity, new paths in research. I don't like incremental work, I don't like results for the sake of new results. I want to create an impact." ✱

off-the-shelf light emitting diodes [LEDs] – that was the breakthrough. It puts the whole thing on a totally different level."

Overcoming these technical challenges means the invention is "very close" to being on sale.

"We have a company in place, pureVLC Ltd, which is the result of a proof-of-concept project backed by Scottish Enterprise, and now we are developing the commercial technology as part of the spin-out company," explains Harald. "We believe we'll have a product on the market later this year. We are very aggressive because after my talk at TED [Harald delivered a presentation at TEDGlobal, an annual interdisciplinary conference] there has been a lot of movement in this area."

Harald was joined at the conference, held in Edinburgh in July 2011, by an eclectic

#### PROFESSOR HARALD HAAS CV

1995–1997: Engineer, Siemens

2001: PhD from Edinburgh, 'Interference analysis of and dynamic channel assignment algorithms in TD-CDMA/TDD systems'

2002: Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering and Science, Jacobs University Bremen

2007: Lecturer, School of Engineering / Institute of Digital Communications (IDCOM), the University of Edinburgh

2010: Professor of Mobile Communications, School of Engineering.

# Support system

**The work of Academic Registry plays an integral part in enhancing the experience of the University's 29,000 students. In the past 18 months, this crucial support service has evolved extensively to reinforce its position at the heart of University business.**  
*bulletin meets the team.*

**W**orking closely with Schools, Colleges and other support services, Academic Registry plays a critical role in every step of the student journey. From registration through to graduation, Academic Registry staff members are among the first and last University representatives whom students encounter throughout their academic life cycle.

"We're part of the glue that binds the whole thing together," explains Director of Academic Registry Rio Watt. "We're constantly there in the student journey – the start of the year, during the year, the end of the year. We interact with every part of what students do at the University – paying fees, receiving scholarships, receiving discretionary funds, changing programmes, exams, supporting academic governance and the existing corporate student, admissions and curricula applications."

In the past 18 months, the department's remit has expanded and as well as hosting the Student Administration section and nine-year-old Scholarship Office, Academic Registry now provides a home for key University support units Academic Services, Student Admissions and Curricula Systems (SACS), and the Timetabling and Room Booking Unit.

The department has also made major changes to its service, notably through 2011's launch of the Student Centre, the culmination of a major refurbishment project to transform Old College's Reid Foyer, at the south side of Old College, into a contemporary, welcoming and professional environment for students accessing Academic Registry services.

"Students have reacted very well to it," says Rio. "A standard has been achieved, and it's clear there's been investment in the Student Centre, which reinforces the importance of students to the institution."

The physical transformation of the space in many ways represents the department's commitment to adapting its service to meet the ever-changing demands of the 21st-century student.

"We have moved a lot of our work online. We're moving to full online registration and student self service next year, which is important to our students, particularly those who are international or distance education students," Rio adds.

Investment in new systems is a significant ambition for Rio's team, and developments over the last six years have helped build a model that can adapt to the rapidly evolving higher education environment.

>>> *Continued on page 12*







## Profile: Student Admissions and Curricula Systems

**Bruce Johnson** is Head of Student Admissions and Curricula Systems (SACS), which joined Academic Registry in January 2011. The unit is tasked with managing, developing and supporting the existing corporate student, admissions and curricula applications.

"We manage delivery of business processes through software, working with key stakeholders and Information Services. We support myriad processes and systems, and an extensive user base. We act in the strategic interests of the University, particularly when managing key outputs such as the HESA Student Returns and Key Information Sets.

"One of the University's key strategic themes is to enhance the student experience. However, we also prevent the student experience from degrading. For instance, SAAS has introduced a new information transfer process, and if we don't implement it, students won't get support payments, and the University won't get any tuition fees.

"The timescales required by external agencies are getting shorter and shorter, and the cumulative number of initiatives increasing, and that's very demanding. Key Information Sets is the most recent example. It's a big development in very short timescales.

"We do have a vision, we do have goals, and we know what we want to achieve. While we can improve the student experience directly – for example, by facilitating online matriculation by students – we can also develop business processes and systems to enable others to improve the student experience."

## Profile: Timetabling and Room Booking Unit

**Scott Rosie** (pictured, left), *Timetabling and Learning Space Manager*, joined the University last year to head up the Timetabling and Room Booking Unit, responsible for delivering a major project to transform the timetabling process.

"We're absolutely putting the student experience at the heart of what we do. The ultimate objective of the timetabling project is to use good-quality curriculum data to generate more efficient timetables that can be of benefit to students and staff.

"Two key benefits will be personal timetables for students and also curriculum-based planning, which will be designed to bring greater flexibility to the timetabling process, potentially giving students more choice.

"Personal timetables are really the biggest driver. There's an expectation from students that they should be able to switch on their smartphone, look at their calendar and have activities drop into it that relate to them. So it's really about delivering that level of service.

"We're very conscious that the University is committed to the enhancement of the student experience. As such, we're also looking for ways in which to formalise student feedback for the services the Timetabling Unit provides; both in relation to the teaching space they occupy and the personalised information they receive."

We're absolutely putting the student experience at the heart of what we do.



>>> **Support system** *continued from page 10*

"Our job is to make student administration accessible but we have some significant challenges to manage in achieving this," she points out. "We're very conscious of the impact of UKBA [UK Border Agency] on students. We're governed by UKBA-managed migration regulations and we have tried to make it as simple and easy for our students to ensure they comply with their visa regulations, and that we protect our sponsor status."

UKBA requirements are an example of the external factors that can impact greatly on the wide-ranging work that Academic Registry carries out. Other recent changes in the sector have

included the introduction of RUK fees, which accompany multiple implications for the team, and also statutory issues such as Key Information Sets, which Academic Registry is supporting. Internal University initiatives are also at the core of the department's remit.

"We're constantly looking to improve," says Rio. "We look for opportunities to link up with strategic University projects. We're embedded now in timetabling and in the personal tutors project. We're central because we contribute in partnership with Schools, Colleges and other services to big corporate solutions, which enhances students' experiences." ✱

Paul Dodds

✱ **Profile: Student Administration Services**

Our biggest challenge is the constantly changing internal and external environment.



*Head of Student Administration Services* **Craig Shearer** leads a team of around 20, which is responsible for matriculation, graduations, exams, the student centre, student queries, student record maintenance, transcripts and UK Border Agency requirements for international students.

"Our overall aim is to provide a welcoming, efficient and professional service to students. The opening of the new student centre in Old College has shown our, and the University's, continuing commitment to this goal.

"Our biggest challenge is the constantly changing internal and external environment within which we operate. We have to ensure that this is reflected in the type of services we provide and in how we interact with students.

"There's a lot more emphasis on the student record and information, and the number of people using that information is steadily growing. We're developing a data quality enhancement strategy to make sure we have the best possible data for these external purposes.

"We're primarily a support department and the successful delivery of our service can only be achieved with the support and assistance of an excellent network of partnerships with a wide range of University departments."

**Profile: Scholarships and St**

**Robert Lawrie**, Head of Scholarships and Student Funding Services, and his team are responsible for managing bursaries, scholarships and financial aid, as well as making tuition fee assessments and assessing student fee status.

"Our strapline is supporting students and changing lives. For many students if they didn't have the funding we make available they simply wouldn't be able to take up their place. It's a changing environment, but it's also very rewarding.

"The other side is tuition fee assessment, determining the level of tuition fee that our students should pay, and it's our job to report back the enrolment status of all our UK students to Student Awards Agency Scotland and the Student



Paul Dodds



Clockwise from main image: The new Student Centre; access to Academic Registry is via Old College Quad; section heads Craig Shearer, Robert Lawrie and Irene Bruce (left to right).

## Profile: Academic Services

**Irene Bruce** joined the University in 2011 as Head of Academic Services. The Unit is responsible for the coordination of key activities designed to both ensure and enhance the quality of the University's provision.

"As the University is committed to the enhancement of the student experience, it is important that both the internal and external perception of the quality agenda and the achievement of a quality enhancement culture within the University is continuously promoted and sustained.

"Academic Services works closely with a wide range of external stakeholders, for example the Quality Assurance Agency, Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, and internal stakeholders including Colleges, Schools, the Institute for Academic Development, Governance and Strategic Planning, and EUSA.

"The department is committed to developing a partnership approach to working with academic, professional and administrative colleagues to ensure institutional objectives are achieved.

"Our key responsibilities include coordinating the development, implementation and monitoring of policy and strategy across the University and for supporting the University's academic governance and regulatory framework. Enhancement activities include the coordination and management of key projects identified as institutional priorities and external sector objectives, like Key Information Sets reporting.

"Managing the impact of external development and compliance requirements, which often involves implementation at relatively short notice, on the delivery of our core activities and institutional initiatives, is one of the greatest challenges we face."

## Student Funding Services

Loans Company. Basically, without that timely reporting, the University wouldn't receive their tuition fee payments and also students wouldn't receive their maintenance payments.

"The greatest change I've seen over the past nine years is the significant investment the University is putting in bursaries and scholarships. We will introduce the Edinburgh RUK Bursary Scheme, specifically for students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, who will be paying the higher rate of fee of £9,000 per year from next session. I'm glad to say that we are offering the best bursary scheme in the UK for those in the lowest income bracket, which will see students studying on a four-year degree receiving up to £28,000.

The greatest change I've seen over the past nine years is the significant investment the University is putting in bursaries and scholarships.

"I've got a personal link with a lot of the key funding providers. We've got very good relationships with the Marshall Commission, the Fulbright Commission, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, as well as the British Council. We're in a positive position to have a centralised scholarships office – as many universities just don't have that."



# Creative connections

**As the University prepares to launch its new online Masters in Creative Writing, Edd McCracken talks to programme leader Dilys Rose about adapting to the digital environment.**

**A**s a writer fluent in multiple styles and forms, Dilys Rose, Creative Writing Lecturer and former University Writer-in-Residence, knows how to adapt and diversify. The award-winning author, best known for her short fiction and poetry, is no stranger to creative collaboration, having made artistic connections with painters and composers for projects in theatre, opera and the visual arts.

But it is Dilys's most recent venture that will most test the adaptability of her skills. After almost a decade of playing an integral role in the University's Masters in Creative Writing, she is translating the successful campus-based degree into the digital form.

"Setting up the programme has been time consuming, but it's exciting," she says. "Being a writer online makes a lot of sense. You have to get your point across with the written word. You can't use the advantages of talking face to face, repeating yourself or rephrasing what you've said. You have to get it right

the first time. There are possibly more written skills involved in online teaching than there might be in a classroom setting."

The online Masters in Creative Writing is one of the first beneficiaries of the University's Distance Education Initiative (DEI), which offers money to Schools wishing to launch postgraduate online learning. Its first students will start in September.

Dilys began developing the idea in January 2011 after noting the difficulties a number of international students could encounter when they considered study in Edinburgh. Market research found that most rival programmes offered a mixture of online teaching with a residential element. Very few offered to teach the finer points of crafting fiction or poetry completely online. Fewer programmes still came from cities or universities with the literary heft of Edinburgh. A niche presented itself.







After compiling a business case, Dilys was granted funding in June 2011 and began hiring staff. A deputy director, learning technologist and part-time administrator recently came into post, and off-campus tutors are still to be hired. The course has a limited ratio of one tutor for every 10 students.

"It's been a huge learning curve," says Dilys. "There are a huge number of areas of the University that I had very little idea existed. It's important that if you're setting up a programme you get as much help as you possibly can."

Dilys worked closely with the University's Communications and Marketing team to develop a plan for promoting the Masters. Programme flyers have been distributed around Edinburgh's main literary events and haunts, such as the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Traverse Theatre. In February this year an advertising campaign was launched via a range of online marketing strategies.

One of the key differences between the campus version of the Masters in Creative Writing and its new online sibling is flexibility. The former programme is full time and lasts a year, and the latter can be taken part time and lasts three years.

"We wanted to give them that bit longer, which might give the students more cause for reflection. That's not a bad thing for writers," Dilys explains.

She also has fresh expectations about the work students will produce. Programme participants are likely to be based all over the world. The diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds will affect their stories and poems. For Dilys, this diversity has the potential to add texture to the learning experience: "One of the ideas I want to focus on with this programme is where people are writing from and how that informs their writing and what we can learn from each other's cultures."

The distance learning programme will be a mixture of synchronous and

“One of the ideas I want to focus on with this programme is where people are writing from and how that informs their writing.”

asynchronous teaching – some seminars will be delivered live via the internet, with alternative times of delivery to ensure that no one has to be at their computer at two in the morning, while other parts of the course will be done in the students' own time.

"We have to make sure that everyone is getting the most involvement out of the programme that they can," says Dilys. "That's why there's a combination. A lot of distance learning courses have no live interaction. But it seems a bit silly not to use the live possibilities. From my own experience of online teaching, it does make a huge difference."

Individual consultations between tutor and student will take place via Skype and through textual commentary. Weekly writing workshops, in which students gain vital peer feedback, will be replaced by online writing forums, which will be less frequent but last for longer. The time students spend to hone their craft will, however, remain the same across the year. A virtual cafe will provide an informal meeting space for social interaction and off-topic chat.

For now, Dilys is keeping simple the art of adapting the programme to the digital world. But she admits the rise of people accessing literature through digital means could mould it further.

She says: "We have a clear plan, but we can't be inflexible. It's the first time and we're happy to adapt to what students find works well for them." ✱

#### Going the distance?

The University launched the Distance Education Initiative (DEI) in 2010 to support Schools to develop online postgraduate programmes. For information, visit the DEI wiki at [www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/DistanceEducationInitiative/DEI](http://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/DistanceEducationInitiative/DEI).

# Lessons on life and death

A facial cast of murderer William Burke is among a fascinating collection of medical artefacts now on display to the public at the University's Anatomical Museum.

The cast was taken shortly before the notorious criminal's execution in 1829, and is part of a William Ramsay Henderson Trust collection of life and death masks of notable individuals, including Sir Walter Scott, William Shakespeare and Kings George III and IV.

Hundreds of other artefacts are on display at the newly refurbished museum, which, until recently, was only open to University staff and students. Among the fascinating items are William Burke's skeleton, a polar bear skull, a preserved human body that was embalmed in the late 1790s and a collection of anatomy teaching models, some of which are still in use.

Museum visitors can also visit the University's historic Anatomy Lecture Theatre, which was designed by architect Rowand Anderson in 1884 and is still operative.

- The Anatomical Museum is open on the last Saturday of the month, from 10am to 4pm.



This page, clockwise from top right: Phrenology bust; William Burke's skeleton; the death mask of the famous graverobber; the museum's spectacular entrance.

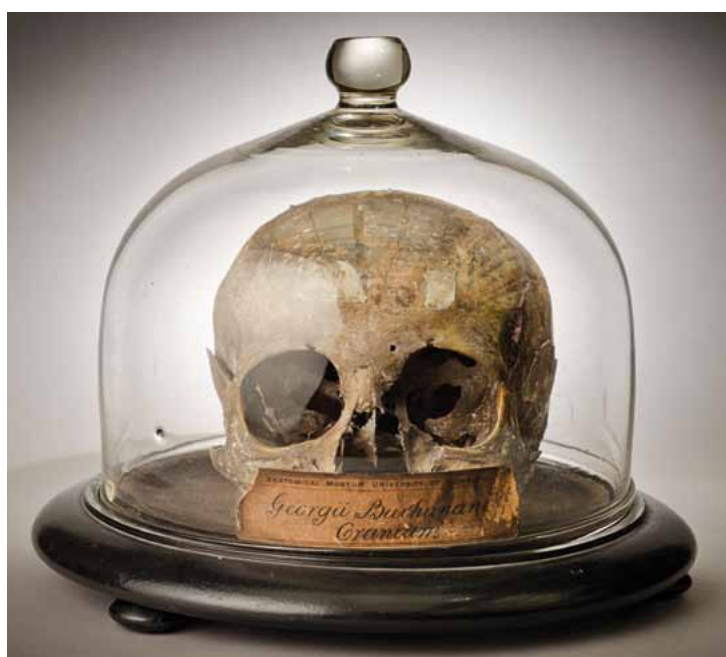






## Historic centrepiece

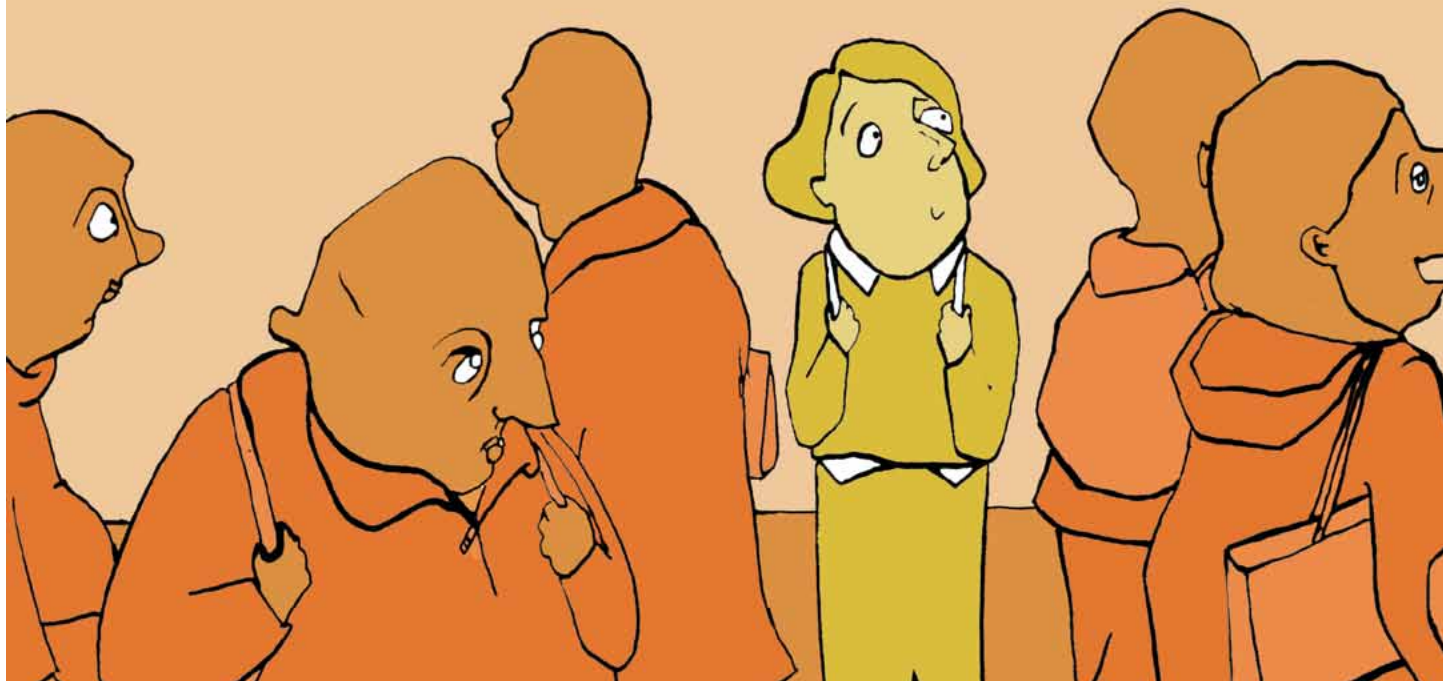
The Anatomical Museum Hall was once the splendid centrepiece of the Teviot Medical School, which opened in 1884. Originally housed over three storeys, the Museum was reduced to a single upper storey in the 1950s. Over the centuries, the Museum's many human and zoological specimens have served as research tools as well as exhibits. The collections were built up by William Turner, Edinburgh's Professor of Anatomy from 1867 to 1903 and Principal from 1903 to 1917.



This page, clockwise from top left: The Anatomy Museum, circa 1898; specimens for study; the skull of 16th-century humanist and historian George Buchanan; anatomy model, once used in teaching.



# One of the **crowd**



**Enhancing the student experience is a significant strategic aim for the University. Dr Rowena Arshad examines what more universities can do to ensure both home and international students have adequate access to support services.**



Dr Rowena Arshad

**T**he messages that international students take back to their communities about their experience of university support services and learning facilities should be

an important consideration of any higher education internationalisation strategy and for those tasked with improving the student experience.

The Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland (CERES), based at the University's School of Education, has been conducting research to explore three key areas relating to the provision of an inclusive environment on campus across the higher education sector.

Evaluating the opinions of more than 1,100 students and 71 staff from six Scottish universities, researchers investigated the equity of support and professional services available to home and international students, the relationships between staff and students, and community engagement.

Overall the study found that the majority of students (home and international) interviewed and surveyed expressed satisfaction with the range of support services provided by universities. Services in the main were provided equitably for home and international students. However, students revealed they were not always aware of the support services available at their institution. They attributed this lack of awareness in part to an overload of information about services at the beginning of the academic year, but also to uncertainty about what the service provided and its relevance for them personally.

While good practice was evident in all support services looked at, there was room for improvement in all. Some of the areas to highlight include addressing the role of alcohol in UK student culture, supporting students with dependants, developing greater integration between staff and students from an increasing diversity of cultures, and building community links, particularly with organisations serving black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, at an institutional level.

Illustration: Emily Cullen, second-year BA (Hons) Illustration student at Edinburgh College of Art ([www.emily-cullen.blogspot.com](http://www.emily-cullen.blogspot.com)).



### Alcohol and student culture

Staff expressed concerns about the health aspects of heavy drinking, particularly affecting overseas students who might not be used to drinking to excess, but feel they need to in order to “fit in”. International students were also concerned that too many student social activities revolved around alcohol, which restricted opportunities to integrate for students who do not drink. Staff and students called for a more “café-like” culture to be developed, which would have wider appeal.

### Supporting students with dependants

A need to provide more information about childcare and schooling (early years to secondary) to students with dependants was identified. Information is also required about the availability of youth services, further education options, and English language classes based within local adult education programmes. Students also indicated a need for more practical information about everyday living, such as details about local neighbourhoods, places to buy international foods, and the National Health Service.

### Campus cohesion

Staff identified a continued need to provide academic and support staff with greater knowledge and skills to work with students from increasingly diverse backgrounds. However, similar educational activity is also required in the student body. To take forward greater campus cohesion in class and beyond, there needs to be more scope for all staff and students to discuss what increasing diversity means for them at a day-to-day level but also to have opportunities to address tensions that might arise from greater diversity.

### Community links

While students were aware that their university could help them access information to enable them to get involved with the community, and had actively done so, the majority of students interviewed and surveyed indicated the connections they did have with community groups were ones they had made themselves rather than through any guidance from their university. There is definite scope for improvement for universities to develop better partnerships and synergies with local communities and

organisations, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and organisations working with BME communities and issues. Such partnerships could generate another tier of support for home and international students, thereby assisting the overall student experience. ✱

Dr Rowena Arshad is Head of the Institute for Education, Community & Society; Associate Dean for Student Academic Misconduct and Co-Director of CERES.

The piece draws from the CERES report, *Attracting International Students: Equitable Services & Support, Campus Cohesion and Community Engagement*, funded by the Equality Challenge Unit and produced in collaboration with the Centre for Rural and Remote Studies at the University of Highlands and Islands. It will be published in April 2012.

📄 [www.education.ed.ac.uk/ceres](http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/ceres)

Do you work in a student support role at the University? Share your views via email at [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk) or tweet us @UoE\_staff.



# people news

## Recognition for outstanding staff



Karen Bowman

Three members of staff have been announced as the winners of 2011's Principal's Medals.

The inaugural Principal's Medal for Outstanding Service was awarded jointly to Karen Bowman, Director of Procurement, and Jake Broadhurst, International Projects Manager. Dr Chris Speed, Reader in Digital Architecture, received the Principal's Medal for Service to the Community.



Jake Broadhurst

The Principal's Medal for Outstanding Service was launched in March 2011 to reward staff members who have made an exceptional contribution to the University community.



Dr Chris Speed

Ms Bowman has been recognised for her leadership and delivery of excellence in procurement at the University. She shared the accolade with Mr Broadhurst, who was awarded in recognition

of his role in developing distance education in health, his contribution to capacity-building educational activities in developing countries, and his involvement in establishing the University's Global Academies.

"This award really is a reflection on the amazing and inspirational Global Academies community that spans academic and support roles across the University," comments Mr Broadhurst.

Launched in 2008, the Principal's Medal for Service to the Community rewards staff or students who make an impactful contribution to the community.

This award is a reflection on the amazing and inspirational Global Academies community...

Dr Speed is Principal Investigator for the £1.4 million RCUK Digital Economy Project TOTeM (Tales of Things and Electronic Memory), a project that has been substantially outreached to the public through a broad range of arts and community-based events.

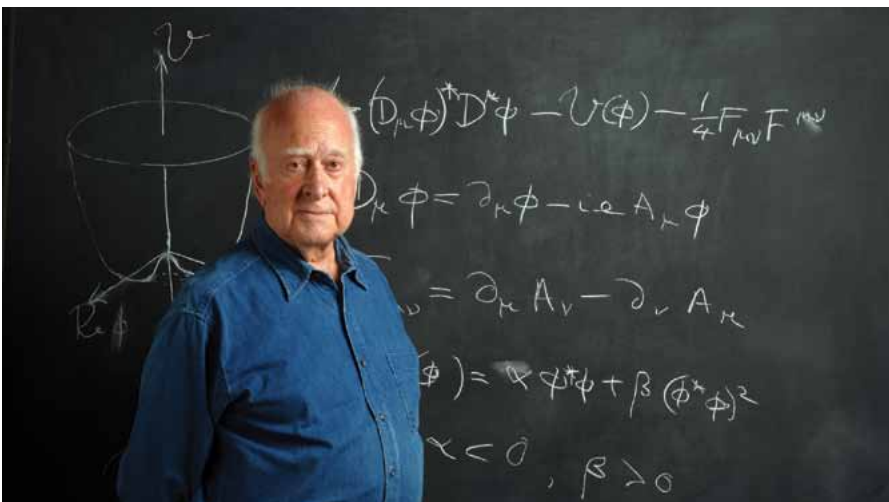
### Nominate a deserving colleague

Do you know someone who deserves University recognition? Nominations are now open for the Principal's Medals, Chancellor's Awards and the Tam Dalyell Prize for Public Engagement.

Visit [www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff/staff-awards-140212](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff/staff-awards-140212)

## City award for Professor Higgs

Peter Turfy



Emeritus Professor Peter Higgs has been recognised by the City of Edinburgh Council for his outstanding contribution to Scotland's capital. The theoretical physicist has been awarded 2011's Edinburgh Award.

To mark the award, a sculpture of Professor Higgs's handprints has been installed on a flagstone in the City Chambers quadrangle. Previous recipients of the honour include Sir Chris Hoy and J K Rowling.

Watch an interview with Professor Higgs at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/higgs-230212](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/higgs-230212).



## Engineering trio takes up rally challenge

A team from the University's Institute for Infrastructure and Environment (IIE) is to cross some of the world's roughest terrain to raise money for charity.

The team, comprising Dr Luke Bisby, Dr Craig Warren and PhD student Steffan Kahrmann, is participating in the Mongol Rally, described as the world's largest charity rally.

In a 1.2 litre engine car, the fundraisers will cover approximately one third of the world's circumference, travelling approximately 10,000 miles, through 17 countries including Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia. The trio will set

off from London, along with about 400 other participants, in July.

The annual rally was launched in 2004 to support and raise awareness of the Lotus Children's Center in Mongolia, which works with vulnerable children and families. The team of engineers, called Khannonball Run, will donate half of the money they raise to the Lotus Children's Center and the remainder to the Scottish Association for Mental Health.

For more information on the team visit [www.khannonballrun.co.uk](http://www.khannonballrun.co.uk).

## Professor Devine honoured for public connection



Leading historian Professor Tom Devine has been awarded the RSE Beltane Senior Prize for Public Engagement 2012.

The award recognises excellence in engaging the public with academic research.

The eminent historian, who is Director of the University's Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, has enjoyed an academic career, spanning more than 40 years. The former Sir William

Fraser Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography now holds the post of Senior Research Professor in History, focusing on new research and supporting the next generation of history researchers.

Among his many accolades are the OBE for services to Scottish History and the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Royal Medal, recognised as Scotland's supreme academic honour.

Hear what Professor Devine has to say on the Scottish independence debate at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/devine-310112](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/devine-310112).

## people news in brief...

### TOP PRIZE FOR HR COORDINATOR

Linsay McKeown, HR Coordinator at Accommodation Services, has been named HR Assistant/HR Officer of the Year by HR Network Scotland. Ms McKeown was nominated for the award by her manager, Lee-Anne Goodbrand, Senior HR Adviser at Accommodation Services. "This award recognises the tremendous quality of work done by Linsay and it reflects well on the standard of professionalism throughout HR at the University," comments Sheila Gupta, the University's Director of HR.

### AN INFLUENTIAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Mona Siddiqui has been named as one of Scotland's most influential women by the *Herald*. Earlier this year, she was appointed as the University's new Assistant Principal for Religion and Society and Professor of Islamic and Inter-religious studies. Professor Siddiqui is the first Muslim professor to be based at the School of Divinity. She will carry out teaching and research on Islamic theology, ethics and Christian-Muslim relations.

### LITERARY CAREER ON TRACK

Catriona Child, Admissions Assistant with the College of Science & Engineering, has published her first novel. Set in Edinburgh, *Trackman* (Luath Press), tells the story of a young man who helps strangers in need through the power of music. Ms Child was the winner of the *Sunday Herald* blog competition and has previously been published in literary magazine *Northwords Now*. The *Herald* review said her debut had "all the makings of a cult hit."

### SERVITOR'S OLYMPIC CHARITY RUN

University servitor Stuart Christie is to embark on a 400-mile run to raise money for charity. On 27 July – coinciding with the Olympics' opening ceremony – the servitor will run from Edinburgh to London, running about 50 miles a day. He aims to raise money for a range of charities, including Cancer Research UK, MS Scotland, Enable Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland.

Find out more at [www.justgiving.com/StuartChristie2012](http://www.justgiving.com/StuartChristie2012).



# New RSE fellows announced

Eleven University of Edinburgh academics have been made Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

They join a prestigious fellowship of 1,500 individuals who have each demonstrated significant achievement in a broad range of fields.

Representatives from each of the University's three colleges made the Fellowship. More than half of the Edinburgh academics elected are female.

"I am pleased to welcome such a talented group of people to the RSE," says Sir John Arbuthnott, RSE President. "It is also encouraging that the proportion of female Fellows elected is the highest in the history of the Society in a single year."



Callum Bennetts @ Maverick Photo Agency

Professor Lesley Yellowlees

## 2012 RSE Fellows

**University staff joining the new RSE intake are:** Professor Polly Arnold, Chair of Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry; Professor David Cameron, Clinical Director of the Edinburgh Cancer Research UK Centre; Rebecca Cheung, Professor of Nanoelectronics; Hilary Critchley, Professor of Reproductive Medicine; Heather Cubie, Honorary Professor of Research and Research Management; Jane Dawson, Professor of Reformation History; John Iredale, Professor of Medicine; Simon Kirby, Professor of Language Evolution; Loeske Kruuk, Professor of Evolutionary Ecology; Professor Gareth Leng, Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences; Leonid Libkin, Professor of Foundations of Data Management; Professor Lesley Yellowlees, Head of the College of Science & Engineering.

## obituary

### Martin Lowe (1940–2011)



Martin Lowe served as Secretary to the University of Edinburgh from 1990 until his retirement in 2002. Before that he was, for nine years,

Secretary and Registrar to the University of St Andrews, his alma mater.

He had wide experience of the university world, gained both in the UK and beyond, initially via the British Council in Tanzania, and then at the University of Strathclyde, where he worked for 12 years, including as Secretary to the Senate. His international connections included work with universities in Sweden, Indonesia and Nigeria, and through the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

His time at Edinburgh had a distinctive start. Due to an accident, he missed his interview, and there was a considerable delay before he was able to attend – on crutches. Two successive Principals found that a congenial, wise and careful Head of Administration was their good fortune.

In Martin's early years at the University, there was a financial crisis that, as we dealt with and escaped from it, shaped much of the next 10 years. A master stroke was Martin's recruitment of a former colleague from St Andrews, Charles Gordon, to lead the restructuring of the University's financial processes.

This was complemented by a reshaping of the University's management of the interaction between academic ends and financial means. What resulted was a financially sound institution ready to

redefine its place among the leading universities of the UK and Europe.

In all of this and in the years that followed the University remained in the business of seeking teaching and research excellence. This cannot be done by a university deficient in the management necessary to run an efficient registry, finance office, Court function and a huge and varied estate. Martin inherited, appointed, and maintained an excellent team, and the University flourished.

Happily, he sustained in employment and retirement his love of the Scottish mountains, and his exceptional skill as a piper. His untimely death at the age of 71 in October 2011 is a loss we share with his wife, Janet, and his four children and eight grandchildren.

*Lord Stewart Sutherland  
Principal 1994–2002*

# My nine to five: Kathy McMillan

**Kathy McMillan is Practice Development Manager within Counselling and Psychotherapy. She is responsible for finding placement opportunities for Counselling students and manages the Hope Park Counselling Centre, which was set up in 2010 and is one of only four University-based counselling centres in the UK. She shares insights into her working life with *bulletin*.**



**Hope Park is a counselling and research centre for our students** who are on professional training courses to do some or all of their practice hours. It was set up to enable them to work as trainee counsellors in a supported environment.

**It's been really lovely to see Hope Park grow** into a centre that now sees around 50 clients a week.

**I have a lot of contact with students.** I'm one of a team of people who support them on their journey. For some, it's a real journey of self-development, self-awareness and just finding out about themselves and others.

**Everything I do is about people.** It's a very people-focused job. I just like being with people, learning about people and talking to people.

**It's important that the University of Edinburgh has a good relationship** with local counselling agencies so that they take our students on placement. I'm the critical link between the University and the agencies – that's the other half of my job.

**I couldn't do this job without a team.** I need people to bounce ideas off and to share things with. I haven't got all the answers and I've got colleagues who are really skilled and really knowledgeable and I don't believe in trying to do that all myself. I'd much rather ask somebody for some advice or help.

**I don't like chaos.** I like to know what I've got to do each day and I like to be prepared.

**I tend to have set routines but not the same routine every day.** No two days are the same and all sorts of things can crop up.

**I've learned a lot about anxiety and stress.** I try to go to yoga and Pilates once a week. They are the two things that keep me mindful about my health and that slow me down – otherwise I'm just on the go all the time.

**I rarely work at the weekend.** I like being outdoors. I'll try to walk up a hill or go for a cycle – something that gets me out of an indoors environment, to just try to switch off from work or any trivia at home.

**I started professional life as a teacher**, and I've worked for charities and businesses throughout my life. All my jobs have been dealing with people, so they've all helped me to become the person I am.

For more information on Hope Park visit [www.hopepark.org.uk](http://www.hopepark.org.uk).

Hope Park Counselling does not take University staff or students as clients. The University offers separate counselling services for staff and students.

📄 [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/human-resources/about/staff-counselling](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/human-resources/about/staff-counselling)

📄 [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling)

## ... and relax

### Lunch spot

The Mosque Kitchen.

### Best view in Edinburgh

At the top of the wheel [at Winter Wonderland in Princes Street Gardens] just before Christmas. That was amazing. I was scared out of my life!



### Ideal holiday

I have two ideal holidays. One is lying on the beach doing nothing. The other is walking in the hills.

### Favourite time of year

Spring.

### Perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon

A long walk in the country.



# health & wellbeing



In every edition of *bulletin*, we round up the tips, policies and activities designed to keep you fit, healthy and well at work and beyond. Visit [www.ed.ac.uk/staff/health-wellbeing](http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff/health-wellbeing) for more advice and information.

## Equality expert launches LGBT network



The University has launched a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) staff network. The group's inaugural meeting was attended by writer and broadcaster Simon Fanshawe (pictured left), who gave a presentation to the group. The former comedian, who also works as a consultant on equality and diversity issues,

spoke at the network's first meeting at the beginning of March.

Anyone interested in getting involved should email Dave Rigby at University Human Resources Services. All responses will be treated as confidential.

✉ [david.rigby@ed.ac.uk](mailto:david.rigby@ed.ac.uk)

## Cycling safety roadshows

The University is taking part in a citywide cycling safety initiative, run by the City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian and Borders Police.

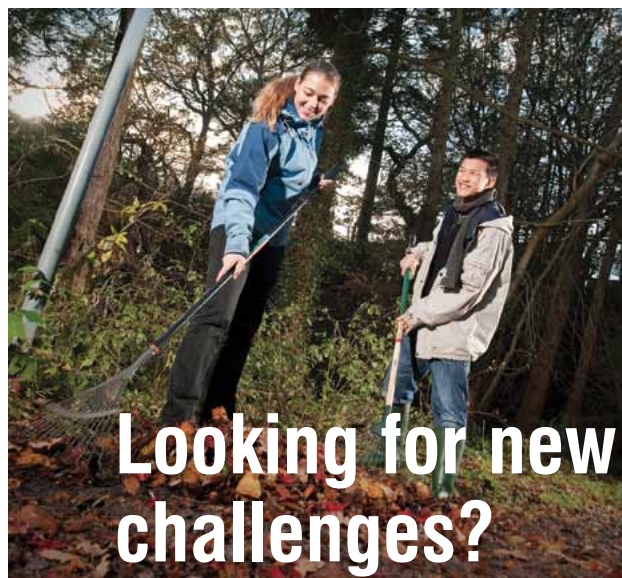
As part of the Streets Ahead project, cyclists will be able to drop in to a series of road safety roadshows taking place throughout the city in April. Road safety experts will be handing out cycling giveaways and answering questions and staff from Lothians and Border Police will security mark and electronically tag bicycles.

### Roadshow schedule

The roadshow will visit the University on the following dates:

- Tuesday 3 April, 11am–2pm, Bristo Square
- Wednesday 4 April, 11am–2pm, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
- Thursday 5 April, 11am–2pm, King's Buildings House

✉ [www.streetsaheadedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.streetsaheadedinburgh.org.uk)



The University offers access to a number of volunteering opportunities. Staff can get involved in welcoming our international students through the Hospitality Scheme for International Students, or arts and sports lovers can volunteer to help out with the Talbot Rice Gallery and Scottish University Sports.

Volunteering can not only make a difference to other people's lives, but has been proven to improve the health and wellbeing of the volunteer. Plus, it can also offer a chance for individuals to use existing skills or develop new talents in a way that can help people and benefit to the community.

Lesley Pert, Health and Safety Adviser with Accommodation Services, volunteers in her spare time for the National Autistic Society's Education Rights Services.

"Volunteering allows you to experience things not always available to you elsewhere," she says. "It can also introduce you to new people, often from different backgrounds or cultures, enhancing your social network and social wellbeing."

Fitting in time to volunteer can be difficult for people with busy lives, but volunteering does not have to mean giving up your evenings, weekends and lunch hours on a regular basis. Helping out at one-off events or taking part in volunteering holidays can be just as rewarding.

"Commitment is important, so thought has to be given to what time you can give and sustain. However some volunteering work can be flexible," suggests Lesley. "It is important to choose carefully, and consider what the work entails and how it will fit in with your life."

✉ For more information about volunteering at the University visit <http://tinyurl.com/7lxyrqw>.

Do you volunteer? We'd like to hear your stories and experiences. Tweet us @UoE\_staff or email us at [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk).



Image: Scott Liddell

## University commits to cut mental illness stigma

The University has signed a national pledge to reduce mental health discrimination in the workplace. The pledge is part of the Scottish Government's "See Me" campaign, which launched to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

To support its pledge to the campaign, the University has created an action plan outlining measures to improve training and awareness of mental health issues, throughout the organisation. The action plan is available from the University's Health and Wellbeing and Equality and Diversity websites.



[www.ed.ac.uk/staff/health-wellbeing](http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff/health-wellbeing)

[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/equality-diversity](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/equality-diversity)



## CSE upgrades equipment

The Centre for Sport and Exercise has invested in new cardio-vascular (CV) equipment. Members of the facility, regularly voted "the best gym in town", can now work out using the Precor 880 line of CV equipment, which includes state-of-the-art treadmills, cross trainers, adaptive motion trainers, and recumbent and upright bikes.

More than 100 of the new machines have been installed and each piece of equipment has touch-screen consoles with flexible Ipad and Iphone connections to allow users to listen to their choice of music or watch their choice of film in high definition, while exercising. Gym-goers can also choose from an extensive library of preset fitness workouts.

### Get involved

University staff memberships are available from just £15 per month. For further details, visit the website or call 0131 650 2585 to speak with a member of CSE staff.

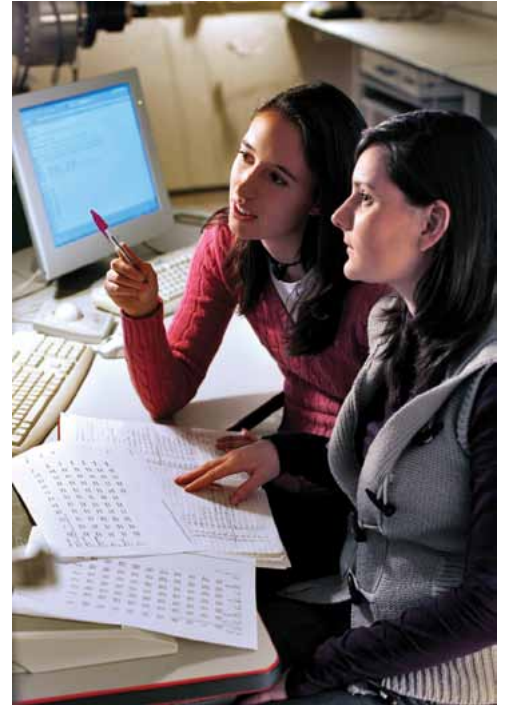


[www.sport.ed.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ed.ac.uk)



# Spot the difference

The University has teamed up with RBFY Beauty Studio in Edinburgh to offer one lucky reader a free pampering package, worth £350. To enter, just find five differences in our Spot the Difference puzzle. Compare the two pictures on the right. The image on the far right differs from the one on the left. Circle each difference and send us your entry by Monday 30 April to the address on page 2. Correct entries will be placed in a draw and the winner will be selected at random.





RBFY is a luxurious haven in the heart of Edinburgh (15 Frederick Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EY). RBFY stands for Right Beauty For You and, with our friendly team of hand-picked professionals, that's exactly what we will deliver. RBFY has joined forces with I Need Pampering to offer **80% off** a 6 month pamper pack. **£350** (normally £437.50) for only **£68.75**. The ultimate experience to get pampered at.

With this exclusive RBFY beauty pack you will receive everything listed below. The visits can be taken in any order over a 6 month period. This extensive package is normally valued at £350..... We are making it available to **University of Edinburgh students and staff members** for only **£68.75**.

<b>Beauty Visit 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin Analysis and Product Prescription</li> <li>• Mini Facial (including, cleanse, tone and moisturise)</li> </ul>
<b>Beauty Visit 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand Massage</li> <li>• Girls on the go Express Manicure</li> <li>• File and Paint Toes</li> </ul>
<b>Beauty Visit 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luscious Lash Tint (48 hour patch test required)</li> <li>• Eyebrow Shape</li> <li>• Underarm Wax</li> </ul>
<b>Special Hair and Beauty Visit 4 Social or Work Event:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smokey Eyes for Your Night Out</li> <li>• Flawless Foundation Application</li> <li>• Hair Styling (Flicks, Curls Up, Style)</li> <li>• Make up bag SOS (declutter your make up bag and troubleshoot with RBFY's make up artist)</li> </ul>

**Exclusively for staff and students only. All visits must be booked during your visit.**

**80% off pamper pack and hair services. The 80% off Pamper Pack!**

There are no 'catches', ultimately, our concept is simple, we are looking to use innovative and vigilant ways of spending the salons advertising budget and offering an 80% off discount gives RBFY Beauty Studio a great chance to further enhance their reputation and create extra positive 'word of mouth' by providing an excellent service.

**Use it or lose it: you receive 80% off the pamper pack for 6 months, they can be enjoyed in any order or choice and the salon is open 6 days a week (Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm).**

For those who want to spoil themselves a little bit more, RBFY are offering a **20% discount** on an extensive range of services (eg. Anti Ageing Treatments, Nail Extensions, Tanning etc) during the duration of the 6 months.

**TO PURCHASE A PAMPER PACK OR FOR FURTHER INFO WITH REGARDS TO The RBFY Beauty Studio New Client promotion: Please contact Marc and his friendly Team at the London Head Office Helpdesk on 0208 843 6100 (weekdays 9am-9pm) or (weekends 10am-6pm), or email [marc@londonheadoffice.co.uk](mailto:marc@londonheadoffice.co.uk).**



## The University of Edinburgh Visitor Centre

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

Full of great gift ideas and University merchandise, there's also a bookshop, free information and a great exhibition packed with 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](mailto:universitycentre@ed.ac.uk)





# noticeboard

It costs £5 to advertise in *bulletin*, which is published twice a year.

Please email your ad to [small.ads@ed.ac.uk](mailto:small.ads@ed.ac.uk) and send a cheque payable to the University of Edinburgh to Small Ads, Communications and Marketing, C Floor, Forrest Hill Building, 5 Forrest Hill, Edinburgh EH1 2QL.

Only current members of staff and students are eligible to place an ad.

Ads are accepted in good faith and *bulletin* cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies in or problems caused by an ad.

## For sale: three oriental rugs

An Anatolian narrow runner, the red field within multiple sky blue guard stripes (313 x 88.5cm) £250 ono; a small Persian rug, decorated all over with orange and brown motifs on an indigo ground (121 x 94cm) £150 ono; a modern Turkey rug with central depiction of a lion bearing a sword (177 x 97cm) £180 ono.  
Contact: [p.wright@ed.ac.uk](mailto:p.wright@ed.ac.uk) or 0131 667 2941.

## Holiday let: Pittenweem

Family owned property ideally located right by the beach. Newly renovated, flexible accommodation. Either as self-contained one bedroom flat or as 3 bedroom house with open plan living space and courtyard garden.  
For more information email: [2westshore@gmail.com](mailto:2westshore@gmail.com).

## Need a little help?

Can you offer some valuable paid work experience to our students? From spring cleaning and gardening to tutoring or designing a website we have students with the skills. Whether it's help at home, or a short-term project in the office, phone the SAGE team to discuss your requirements on 50 6688, or visit our website at [www.ed.ac.uk/careers/employers](http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers/employers).

## Holiday let: Edinburgh's New Town

A self-catering apartment fully refurbished in 2011, sleeps four. Ideal for visiting scholars, parents of graduating students or friends visiting Edinburgh. Numerous good reviews on Tripadvisor. Full details on our websites: <http://tinyurl.com/Duncansland1>, <http://tinyurl.com/duncansland2> and <http://tinyurl.com/duncansland3>.

## For sale: Portobello flat

Well-maintained ground-floor, one-bedroom flat in Portobello. Conveniently located for all amenities and the beach. Suitable first-time buy, or as a buy-to-let investment, or for someone downsizing. More information at <http://goo.gl/20rCa>.





## Showcase

In every issue of *bulletin* we profile an item from the University Collections.

### Boosey & Co contrabass trombone

#### From the Frank Tomes Collection

Made in London in 1898, this impressive instrument belonged to the professional trombonists Arthur Falkner and Godfrey Kneller. It was for many years the contrabass trombone used in British performances of music from Wagner's *Ring* cycle and was known in the profession as 'King Kong'. This magnificent contrabass trombone plays an octave lower than the tenor trombone in C so the tubing has to be twice as long.

The Frank Tomes Collection of musical instruments, assembled by the musician and instrument maker Frank Tomes, was recently donated to the University, and will be on display at the Reid Concert Hall Museum of Instruments from 7 April.