



The University  
of Edinburgh

WINTER 08

# edit

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE INCLUDING BILLET & GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

## Alumnus of the Year 2007

Human rights lawyer  
Emily Maw in conversation  
with Sheena McDonald

## ALSO INSIDE:

Edinburgh's innovative  
new centre for motor  
neurone disease research

A year in focus:  
*Edit* reviews the past  
academic year





## BESPOKE

crafted furniture designed around you, your space and your budget.

Do you dream of a place where you can escape the demands of life? A place you can simply call your own? Our bespoke furniture can transform an unused room or an awkward space into a stylish and practical hideaway. As well as beautifully crafted home studies our brochure has 70 pages of individually designed bedrooms, lounges and library furniture. So if you're looking for bespoke furniture call us today for your free copy of our brochure or to book a free consultation with a member of our design team.

**free design service**  
**bespoke design & craftsmanship**  
**high quality wood veneers**  
**5 year guarantee**  
**available worldwide**

[www.nevillejohnson.co.uk/edit](http://www.nevillejohnson.co.uk/edit)

CALL TODAY  
FOR A FREE  
BROCHURE  
0161  
873  
8333  
QUOTE  
CODE EDIT07  
LINES OPEN  
7 DAYS



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

Mr / Mrs / Miss: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

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.



NEVILLE  
JOHNSON  
design without compromise

HOME STUDIES BEDROOMS LOUNGES HOME CINEMA

# Contents



## Features

### 14 A Cure Lies in Collaboration

Shedding new light on motor neurone disease.

### 16 Fighting for Freedom

Sheena McDonald talks to lawyer Emily Maw, the University's Alumnus of the Year 2007.

### 18 Review of the Year 2006/07

*Edit* puts the spotlight on the past academic year.

## Regulars

### 02 University News

### 20 Alumni Network

### 24 World Service

### 28 Talbot Rice Gallery

### 29 Billet

(including details of the General Council Meeting in Washington 2008)

## Foreword

Welcome to the Winter 2008 edition of *Edit*.

In this issue we meet a number of friends and fellow alumni including those behind the groundbreaking Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research. We also join Sheena McDonald in conversation with the Alumnus of the Year 2007, Emily Maw, whose dedication and contribution to criminal justice in the US will make all Edinburgh Alumni justly proud. In addition we take a look at the University's achievements throughout 2006/07 in our Review of the Year. A more detailed account can be found at [www.ed.ac.uk/annualreview](http://www.ed.ac.uk/annualreview).

2008 is set to be a great year as we expand and strengthen our alumni networks throughout the world. We're also delighted that the General Council will be holding their June meeting in Washington DC for the first time. This promises to be a momentous and historic occasion. A Voting Paper for the election of members of the Council's Business Committee is also enclosed.

With best wishes for the New Year.

**Young P Dawkins III**  
 Vice-Principal, Development

**Publisher** Barbara Laing, Communications and Marketing, The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE

**Design** Freight Design 0141 552 5303

**Cover Photography** Alasdair Smith

**Printing** J Thomson Colour Printers

**Mailing Services** Capital Communications

**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 environment-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 0131 650 2240 or email [development@ed.ac.uk](mailto:development@ed.ac.uk).

FSC logo

EDINBURGH  
INSPIRING CAPITAL



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

2006

# University News



For all the latest University news, visit:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/news](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news)

## Scotland's first Confucius Institute launched

A national centre to promote economic, educational and cultural ties between Scotland and China was launched in September at the University by First Minister Alex Salmond.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland will join a global network of more than 140 institutes to develop effective business, cultural and academic links with the fastest growing economy in the world.

The Institute, backed by the Chinese Education Ministry, will offer a range of cultural and academic programmes to develop awareness of modern China, its history and culture.

To mark the Institute's opening, the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, known as Hanban, donated a bronze bust of the Chinese educator and philosopher Confucius, and officials from Zhuhai city donated a bronze statue of Huang Kuan, the first Chinese graduate of any European University. Huang Kuan graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh in 1857.

The Principal of the University, Professor Timothy O'Shea, says: "Productive collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and China stretches back at least a century and a half.

"This new Institute will strengthen these cultural and academic interactions, and create new possibilities for further Scottish engagement with China."



First Minister Alex Salmond and the University's Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea

## Alumnus of the Year 2007

US-based lawyer Emily Maw, who specialises in fighting miscarriages of justice, has been named the University of Edinburgh's Alumnus of the Year 2007.

Emily, 31, Director of The Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO), was presented with the prestigious award at a ceremony in the McEwan Hall.

Over the past six years, IPNO has overturned 12 wrongful convictions for men sentenced to life without parole in Louisiana and Mississippi, states with the US's highest incarceration rates.

While studying at the University's School of Law, Emily was given a Small Project Grant by the Alumni Fund to take up an internship at the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center, where she returned to work after graduating. She later graduated from Louisiana's Tulane Law School.

*Nominations are now invited for the Alumnus of the Year Award 2008. The award is made annually to a former student for services to the community, achievements in arts or sciences, in business, public or academic life. To submit a nomination, and to see a full list of past winners, please visit [www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk), or contact us (details on page 1) to request a nomination form.*



Emily Maw

Edit talks to Emily Maw on page 16.

## The Royal (Dick) Vet celebrates 50 years

A homecoming weekend for alumni and a special graduation ceremony were held in the summer to commemorate 50 years since the first vets received degrees from the University.

More than 300 alumni from all over the world came to Edinburgh to mark half a century since the first students graduated with Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degrees after the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies joined the University in 1951.

Among the alumni were 10 out of the original 17 vets who graduated from the University in 1957. On Friday 22 June, members from the "Class of 1957" joined a graduation procession for 109 newly qualified vets and postgraduate students. The School's patron, HRH The Princess Royal, also attended the ceremony held at the University's McEwan Hall and presented graduate Louisa Ing with the School's top prize, the William Dick Medal.

Honorary degrees (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery) were awarded to alumni Robert Moore, Junior Vice-President of the Royal College of

Veterinary Surgeons, and Dr Freda Scott-Park, Senior Vice-President of the British Veterinary Association.

The anniversary celebrations also included tours of the School's Easter

Bush campus and Edinburgh Zoo, a gala homecoming dinner and the 2007 William Dick Lecture – "Is Man Just Another Animal?" – delivered by Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at UCL.



HRH The Princess Royal presents graduate Louisa Ing with the School's top prize, the William Dick Medal

## New veterinary cancer centre to benefit animals and humans

A £3 million veterinary research centre, to be based at the University, will enable scientists to deepen their understanding of cancer and inflammatory diseases and to develop new therapies. The Cancer Centre, due to open in June 2008, will be a key part of a £100 million investment in the development of the 'Dick Vet' at Easter Bush, Midlothian.

Under the directorship of Professor David Argyle, the Centre is about more than just animal health, and will be ideally placed to offer research in animal cancers as a model for human cancer.

Combining radiotherapy with new advanced imaging technologies, the Centre will be able to offer the most comprehensive range of cancer therapies in Europe, placing it in the top five veterinary cancer centres in the world.

As well as supporting clinical research, the Centre will enhance the educational experience of the students of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, providing improved training facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate students.





# University of Edinburgh Campaign tops £200m

The University of Edinburgh Campaign has passed the £200 million mark and is well on target to meet its goals.

The Campaign aims to raise £350 million by 2011 in order to fund world-class research, build state-of-the-art facilities and provide a range of scholarships. Its initial success is due to an exhaustive worldwide programme of networking and fundraising.

For the last financial year, £51 million has been recorded, leaving just £150 million to attain in the remaining four years. Over £4.6 million of funds raised in the past year come from legacies.

Vice-Principal of Development, Young Dawkins, says: "People recognise that making a stronger University makes a stronger Scotland. The gifts we receive make a huge difference to the University, its students and to the impact of the University's research on the world."

Recent philanthropic gifts include a seven-figure donation to fund the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research (see page 14) and a bequest of 1,000 clarinets and £600,000 from Sir Nicholas Shackleton's estate.

# Library fundraising reaches milestone

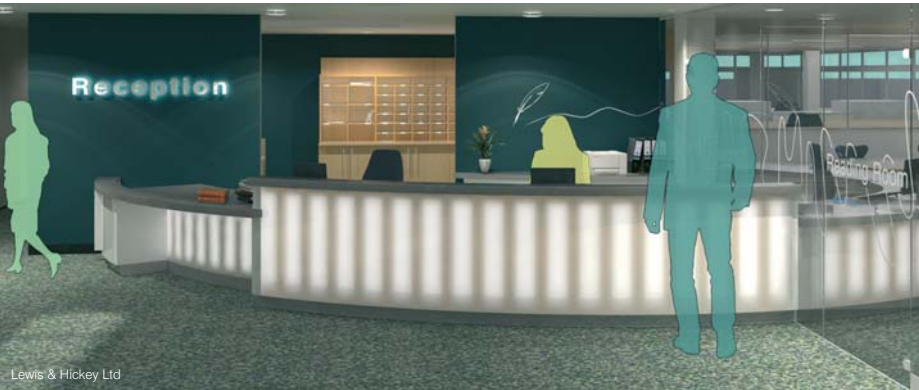
A total of £1.35 million has been raised to date for the five-year £60 million redevelopment of Edinburgh University Library.

The sum raised includes a £400,000 bequest from former student Dr Henry Adam and donations from three charitable trusts – £500,000 from the Wolfson Foundation, £350,000 from the Gannochy Trust, and £100,000 from the Binks Trust.

The top two floors of the Library are being transformed into a Centre for Research Collections. The collections

include a library that belonged to the philosopher and economist Adam Smith; the manuscript of Robert Burns' *Address to Edinburgh*; and an original copy of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* with stage notes.

The next step will be to redevelop the Library's remaining six floors, which will feature a variety of innovative study spaces ranging from group study pods to quiet desks, all with wireless internet access to support the use of digital library resources.



# Law Tercentenary Campaign success

Significant progress has been made in raising funds for the University's Law Tercentenary Campaign, with £900,000 already donated by alumni and sponsorships.

Primarily, the funds raised will go towards 10 new scholarships and a travel award, a new moot court facility and the refurbishment of the Law Library. The Campaign is also financing a Europa Institute Fellow and a high-profile lecture series on human rights.

The Law Tercentenary Campaign was established to enhance the future of the School of Law during its 300th anniversary year. As part of the celebrations, more than 300 alumni converged on Edinburgh in June for a reunion weekend, and special graduation ceremonies and events were held throughout 2007.

# Chancellor honours academic excellence

Three innovative academics have received Chancellor's Awards in 2007 in recognition of their contribution to the University and beyond.

The Chancellor of the University, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, presented the awards to the academics in front of some 200 supporters and alumni at a dinner in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in August.

The School of Chemistry's Professor David Leigh picked up the Research Award in recognition of his pioneering work on nanotechnology. Professor Leigh has made a series of fundamental advances in synthetic molecular systems, including a motor-mechanism for artificial nanomachines inspired by James Clerk Maxwell's 140-year-old theoretical experiment, 'Maxwell's Demon'.

Professor Susan Rhind, of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, received the Teaching Award. Professor Rhind was appointed Director of Veterinary Teaching in 2003, and has

since been leading educational development within the Vet School.

Professor Donald Bloxham, of the School of History and Classics, was honoured with the Rising Star Award. He has built a reputation for his research into genocide

and war crimes, and his latest book, *The Greatest Game of Genocide*, won the 2007 Raphael Lemkin Prize.

Now in their fifth year, the Chancellor's Awards recognise innovation, relevance, creativity and personal dedication.



# Michael Palin receives honorary degree

Actor, author and broadcaster Michael Palin was just one of many distinguished names to receive an honorary degree from the University during the summer. Michael was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Also accepting honorary degrees were Professor Daniel Dennett Fletcher, Professor of Philosophy, Tufts University (Doctor of Letters); Professor Alexander McCall Smith, (Doctor of Laws);

Catherine Lockerbie, Director of the Edinburgh Book Festival (Doctor of Letters); Professor Walter Nimmo, former Chief Executive Officer of Inveresk Research (Doctor of Medicine); and Tony George Stanger, rugby union player and coach (Doctor of Education).

For a full list of the honorary graduates, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/graduation/honorary](http://www.ed.ac.uk/graduation/honorary).

# McCarthy and Rogers named James Tait Black winners

Cormac McCarthy and Byron Rogers have been named as the winners of 2007's James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, the University's annual literary awards.

At a ceremony held at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Cormac picked up the fiction prize for his novel

*The Road*, while Byron was presented with the biography prize for his work on poet RS Thomas, *The Man Who Went into the West*.

Established in 1919, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes are Britain's oldest literary awards. They are the only awards of their kind to be

presented by a University and have acquired an international reputation for recognising excellence in biography and fiction.

Past winners have included Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith, Ian McEwan, DH Lawrence, EM Forster and Graham Greene.

University News

Research centre to boost economy

Millions of pounds worth of investment and 6,500 new jobs are expected to result from a University partnership that will place groundbreaking research in a commercial setting.

The University, Scottish Enterprise and NHS Lothian have formed a joint venture to develop a new commercial research campus at the Centre for Biomedical Research, and are collaborating with life science property specialists Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc.

The campus, next to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the University's Queen's Medical Research Institute at Little France, has been re-branded as Edinburgh BioQuarter.

Planning permission has been granted for around 1.4 million square feet of academic, institutional and commercial life science space. The multioccupancy building will house state-of-the-art facilities to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation and offer access to lab space for exploratory research.

Once complete, the project is expected to generate an additional £350 million per annum for the Scottish economy

with the development creating one of Europe's top centres for biomedical research.

Professor John Savill, Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, says: "The new campus will

provide an environment in which our scientists can work in close collaboration with commercial partners to ensure that the groundbreaking research we undertake in life sciences is put to the best possible use."



Edinburgh BioQuarter will house state-of-the-art facilities

Edinburgh moves up in rankings

The recently released *Times Higher* World University rankings rated Edinburgh as one of the world's leading universities.

Edinburgh has been placed in the top 25 institutions in the world, showing a climb of 10 places to the 23rd spot, compared to last year's rankings.

The *THES* ranking is based on a number of factors, but significant among these is a peer review survey. The views of thousands of top academics and leading employers are taken into account when compiling the final rankings.

Meanwhile, the University of Edinburgh Management School has jumped 21 places in the *Financial Times* 2007 Global Executive MBA Rankings.

Edinburgh was one of only 12 UK schools to make it into the rankings, which rate the top Executive MBA programmes in the world.

Edinburgh moved up three places to seventh in the UK-based part-time programmes, and was placed 48th in the world – a rise of 21 places. Edinburgh is the only Scottish Business School to feature in the rankings.



‘What can I say except thanks about a hundred times. I’m lost for words – it’s made the difference between me being here and not being here.’

Cathryn Spence, History PhD student and Jenny Balston Scholarship recipient.



A gift in your Will means so much to a student like Cathryn. Make a commitment to The University of Edinburgh by leaving a legacy to support our community. Together we can invest in our future.

Contact Joanne Finnie on +44 (0)131 650 2240 or email joanne.finnie@ed.ac.uk

The University's fundamental mission is the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and understanding.

I wish to join the *Carlyle Circle* and help the University continue its pioneering work

*'I can enable future students to benefit from some of the privileges which I myself enjoyed. I hope it will also go in some measure towards repaying my own debt of appreciation for four of the most memorable and happy years of my life.'* Legacy donor

Name .....

Address .....

.....Postcode.....

Tel No.....E-mail .....

Please tick one of the following:-

☐ I have already included a gift to the University in my Will

☐ I am considering adding a gift to the University to my Will

☐ I would like to discuss a possible gift with the Legacy Manager

☐ Every year we publish the names of Carlyle Circle members: publishing this list helps to encourage others to follow your example. Please tick if you would prefer not to be listed as a member of the Carlyle Circle.

Please return this reply slip to: The University of Edinburgh Development Trust, FREEPOST EH565, Edinburgh, EH8 0BR

Your details may be used by the University, its agents and recognised alumni clubs, for a range of activities including sending publications, offering benefits and services, organising events and in our fundraising programme. Where you have provided telephone or e-mail details, we may contact you using these media. If you would prefer not to be included in any of these activities, please tick this box [ ]. We will then contact you to record your wishes.

Development and Alumni, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9 - 16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT Scotland UK. The University of Edinburgh Development Trust is a charity registered in Scotland. Registered Charity No: SC004307. The University of Edinburgh Registered Charity No: SC005336.



The University of Edinburgh Campaign

# Hormone therapy hope for ovarian cancer

Researchers at the University have shown that hormone therapy can extend life in ovarian cancer patients, giving women a new alternative to chemotherapy.

A recent study has proved for the first time that the targeted use of an anti-oestrogen drug could prolong the life of some patients by up to three years, and delay the use of chemotherapy in others.

Letrozole hormone therapy – already used with great success in the treatment

of breast tumours – attacks cancer by turning off its oestrogen supply.

Researchers now believe that in those ovarian cancers that are highly sensitive to oestrogen, this blocking mechanism could slow the growth and spread of disease.

Dr Simon Langdon, Senior Lecturer in Cancer Research, says: “This research presents new possibilities for tailor-made cancer therapy and demands further investigation.”



# New degree prepares business leaders for carbon economy

The University is launching a postgraduate degree in carbon management. The new programme is designed to help equip business leaders to make greener decisions.

The one-year MSc programme – among the first of its kind in the world – is open to business and economics graduates as well as environmental scientists. It will launch in September 2008, subject to approval.

Graduates of the degree are expected to work in industry and as policy advisors to governments. The course combines the University’s School of Geosciences’ expertise in the carbon cycle and carbon management, with the School of Management and Economics’ excellence in economics and risk management.

In addition to the MSc programme, a nine-month diploma course is offered.

Programme Director, Dr Dave Reay, says: “From this course a cohort of experts will enter business and, as they rise through the ranks, impact on energy use in the global economy, and play a part in moving towards a low-carbon economy.”

# Edinburgh one of UK’s greenest universities

The University has been ranked as one of the UK’s top 10 greenest higher education institutions by a new “green” league table.

Edinburgh finished joint eighth in the Green League, a survey of all 120 British Universities published by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* to coincide with World Environment Day.

The survey, which was compiled by student campaigners People and Planet, incorporates data never before

published in the public domain obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, including the percentage of energy purchased from renewable sources, percentage of waste recycled and climate change emissions from each institution.

David Somervell, the University’s Energy and Sustainability Manager, says: “This is a welcome reflection of 15 years’ progress towards environmental sustainability.”

# Breakthrough for breast cancer sufferers

A groundbreaking new breast cancer research unit is to be set up at the University, to develop new treatments for breast cancer patients.

The Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit, Edinburgh, due to open in 2008, is one of three research units being set up across England and Scotland.

It will be led by Mike Dixon, Consultant Surgeon at the Western General Hospital, and Professor David Harrison, Director of the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre.

The Unit will be based at the soon-to-be-launched Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, with laboratories adjacent to the Edinburgh Breast Unit of the Western General Hospital.

The team will use the latest technology to analyse biological changes in hormone-positive breast cancers, which account for 80 per cent of all invasive breast cancers.

Mr Dixon, Clinical Lead of the Unit, says: “All women deserve to be treated in the most effective way for their type of breast cancer and this work will help us towards that goal.”

# Edinburgh’s record-breaking year of research

The University has strengthened its position as Scotland’s leading research institution by earning record levels of investment in its pioneering work.

New figures show that the University won a record £210 million to fund its research in 2006/07 – an increase of almost 50 per cent on the previous financial year.

The investment supports work across a range of disciplines, including medicine, veterinary medicine, science, engineering and the humanities.

The awards are made from a variety of sources, including government, industry, commerce and charities, and 40 of the 943 awards were for more than £1 million.


The University also filed 77 patents to protect new inventions by research staff, and signed 66 licence agreements to allow commercial use of technologies

developed on campus, which is double the number in the previous financial year. Additionally, University staff created a total of 16 new companies.

Derek Waddell, Managing Director of Edinburgh Research and Innovation, the University’s research and commercialisation office, says: “We are delighted with this latest set of figures. They demonstrate the strength of the research base at the University and help to maintain our position as one of the leading research-active universities in the United Kingdom.

“The excellent figures for patenting, licensing and new company formations are particularly pleasing.”





The University of  
Edinburgh Campaign

The University of Edinburgh Campaign welcomes donations to maintain excellence and opportunity at The University of Edinburgh. Any contribution that you can make will help us enormously. Please consider helping us to continue the important work of the University. To make a gift, complete the form below in block capitals or donate online at [www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk). Thank you.

<div>Name</div> <div>Address</div> <div>Postcode</div> <div>E-mail</div> <div>Telephone</div>	<div>Enclosed is my cheque for £</div> <div>(Please make cheques payable to The University of Edinburgh Development Trust.)</div> <div>Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Switch for £</div> <div>Card No. </div> <div>Expiry date (SWITCH ONLY) Issue No. Start date</div> <div>Card Security Code (the three-digit number printed on the signature strip directly after the card number)</div>
---	---

GIFT AID DONATIONS

If you are a UK taxpayer, we can reclaim the tax you have paid on this donation, thereby increasing its value by nearly a third at no extra cost to you. Please complete the following declaration.

☐ Please reclaim tax on all donations I have made for the six years prior to this year, (but no earlier than 6/4/2000) and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. (You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year.)

Signature

Date

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

☐ Please send me information on leaving a legacy.

INFORMATION FOR US-BASED TAXPAYING DONORS

If you wish to deduct your gift as a charitable donation on your US income tax return, you may wish instead to consider making a donation to The University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust, Inc (an independent organisation set up by some of our graduates to advance the purposes of the University). These donations can be sent to The University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust Inc., PO Box 230631, Ansonia Station, 178 Columbus Avenue, NY 10023-0631.

INFORMATION FOR CANADA-BASED TAXPAYING DONORS

The University of Edinburgh can provide a receipt for Revenue Canada if required. Canadian taxpayers should make cheques payable to The University of Edinburgh, NOT The University of Edinburgh Development Trust.

Please mail your contribution 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. Registered Charity No: SC004307. The University of Edinburgh Registered Charity No: SC005336

## Recognition for instruments collection

The University's Collection of Historic Musical Instruments is one of 10 collections now officially recognised as being significant to Scotland.

A new Recognition Scheme celebrates, promotes and invests in nationally significant collections held outside the nationally run museums and galleries around the country.

Funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Scottish Museums Council, the scheme will help to ensure that these important collections are identified, cared for, protected and promoted to a wider audience.

The University's collection ranks among the world's most important collections of musical heritage. All the main types of musical instrument are represented, and are on show in two museums (St Cecilia's Hall Museum of Instruments and Reid Concert Hall Museum of Instruments).

The 3,000 objects in the permanent collection are an important resource for research and include many models of musical instrument spanning more than 500 years.



## Researchers to focus on family lifestyles to curb diabetes spread

Edinburgh researchers have teamed up with colleagues from the University of Glasgow to focus on family lifestyles in a new approach to preventing diabetes.

The new study – the first of its kind in the UK – will test whether involving whole families in weight loss and fitness initiatives is effective in preventing the development of type 2 diabetes among high-risk family members.

The £1 million study will focus specifically on people of Indian

and Pakistani origin, who are five times more likely to develop late onset diabetes than the rest of the population.

Dieticians will visit 300 families at home over the next three years and provide culturally specific advice on nutrition and exercise.

Researchers hope to reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes by 50 per cent, and believe that by focusing on high-risk families they will find strategies that can be applied more widely.

## University receives SII accreditation

The University is the first of a select group of UK universities outside London to be designated a Securities & Investment Institute (SII) Centre of Excellence. The designation will offer Edinburgh graduates a significant head start when progressing their financial services careers.

The Centre of Excellence designation means that graduates in the MSc Finance and Investment programme will also be eligible for the award of the SII

Diploma (which will become formally known as the "SII Masters" programme) without having to take any of the SII exams.

In order to achieve the SII Masters, graduates of the above programme will need to have become an SII student member by the first day of the second semester of their Edinburgh Masters programme. They will also take and pass the SII online Integrity & Ethics learning programme.

Following these qualifying criteria, the graduates will then be eligible for full SII membership. In addition students will be eligible to compete for the SII's Stephen Cooke Award and other SII Awards.

SII and the University of Edinburgh will share good practice in assessment and quality assurance and will establish a joint annual lecture to encourage students to combine academic and professionally related learning.

For all the latest University news, visit:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/news](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news)

## £1m gift will help study of Scots' influence overseas

A leading financier and his wife have pledged their support for a new historical centre at the University, which will study the influence of Scots abroad.

Investment fund manager Alan McFarlane and his wife, Anne, have donated £1 million to the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, to support two PhD scholarships in perpetuity and provide 10 undergraduate access bursaries to help students in financial need.

The gift is believed to be the largest private donation to a history-related project at a British university. The McFarlanes are both Edinburgh graduates.

The £5 million Centre, due to open in 2008, will be headed by historian and bestselling author, Professor Tom Devine. To be located in the University's School of History, Classics and Archaeology, it will

explore the experiences of Scottish migrants in different countries throughout history.

A key focus of the Centre's work will be to examine how Scots shaped society, economies and culture in countries around the world – particularly in North America, Australia and New Zealand. Final plans for the Centre will be unveiled in 2008.



## Special Collections calendar launched

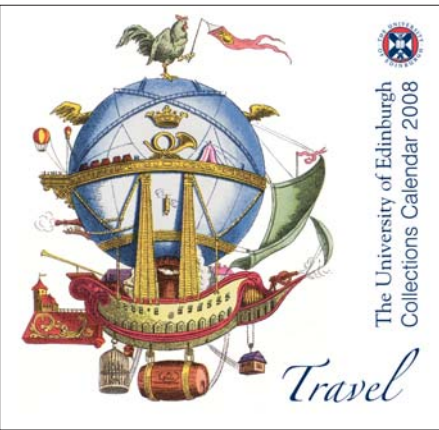
The University's Special Collections has launched its 2008 calendar – the third in the series. The theme for this year's calendar is travel.

The University has always been global in its outlook, and its staff and students have travelled the world studying and documenting its natural wonders. From rope bridges in the Himalayas to rafts in Ecuador, the 2008 calendar contains a small sample of images from an extensive collection which both reflects the generosity of benefactors and academic endeavour throughout the centuries.

The images are drawn mainly from the magnificent collection of hand-coloured plate books in Special Collections, Edinburgh University Library, with all the

high quality photography performed by the Library's Digital Imaging Unit.

Proceeds from the sale will support conservation and care of the University's collections. For mail order please visit [www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk](http://www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk).



## RESEARCH NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hand-held supercomputers?

University engineers are a step closer to creating supercomputers that can fit inside a mobile phone.

Researchers from the School of Engineering and Electronics, working in collaboration with colleagues from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and University of Rome, have examined how tiny wires – 1,000 times thinner than a human hair – behave when manipulated.

The insights will be crucial to creating the wiring in the ever-smaller computers of the future.

### Malaria treatment hope

People with blood group O are naturally protected from the most severe forms of malaria, Edinburgh scientists have discovered. Their findings point to new avenues of research for drugs or vaccines, which recreate the protection offered by this blood type, which is common in tropical countries.

Scientists at the University and researchers in the US, Mali and Kenya studied African children and found that those with blood type O were two thirds less likely to experience unrousable coma or life-threatening anaemia, which are both characteristic of severe malaria.

### Cancer therapies discovery

Edinburgh scientists have made a surprising discovery about a key protein that repairs damaged human cells. The findings may prove a vital step in the quest to find treatments for certain types of cancers.

Scientists who had been studying the genetic make-up of the SEP53 protein to better understand its role in tissue repair have found it may also play a part in our immune system's defence against some cancers.

Cancer researchers will now investigate the link between the protein SEP53, viruses and cancer.

# Cystic fibrosis study dents superbug’s armour

Edinburgh scientists, in collaboration with colleagues in Canada, have discovered a weakness in a potentially life-threatening superbug that particularly affects people with cystic fibrosis.

*Burkholderia cepacia* complex are virulent and contagious bacteria and an important cause of life-threatening lung infection in cystic fibrosis patients. The highly adaptable pathogens are naturally resistant to most of the major groups of antibiotics.

Microbiologists and chemists at the universities of Edinburgh, Western Ontario and Manitoba, Canada, working in collaboration, have however, identified an ‘Achilles heel’ in the organism that could lead to effective antimicrobial

treatment. Their discovery focuses on preventing bacteria from forming a sugar-based armour in their cell wall, which enables them to resist killing by a major group of antibiotics.

Dominic Campopiano, of the School of Chemistry, says: “Now that we have found that it has a weakness, we hope that by preventing it from forming this sugar armour we may achieve a much needed breakthrough in antibiotic therapy against these life-threatening pathogens.”



# Edinburgh graduate wins top software engineering award

Informatics graduate and University employee Hui (Michael) Sun has won the prestigious ScotlandIS Young Software Engineer of the Year Award for 2007.

The award is given for the best undergraduate software projects drawn

from across all students studying computer science and software engineering in Scotland.

Michael’s winning project was a piece of software, which, when installed on a Java-enabled mobile phone, allows the owner to restrict use of the phone using

image recognition techniques and the phone’s internal camera. The project has already attracted some commercial interest.

Since graduating in 2007, Michael has been working as a software developer for IS Applications at the University.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Madam**

Congratulations to the University of Edinburgh for being part of the Fairtrade movement. There is a growing body of public opinion that is concerned about the trading methods of wealthy nations and the detrimental effects on poor countries. I support a Fairtrade organisation where workers regularly report that they have no doubt their lifestyle is benefiting. I am realistic enough to see that it is not a perfect system, however, the only way to affect change is in the way we spend our money and to support organisations that lobby governments.

I hope Dr Walter Nimmo (*Edit* Summer 07, page 10) sees it as morally wrong to buy supermarket clothes that are made in a sweatshop in the Far East. I am sure he would agree that everyone is entitled to a minimum living wage. Unfortunately, “best” business practice has little regard for this. Profits and shareholders come well before workers.

In this country, how long will it be before we regret the decline of our agricultural base through the buying power of supermarkets dictating price? In this centenary year of the Abolition of

Slavery Act, it is worth remembering how the stubbornness of a few people effected that change. But it took time. Unfortunately, modern trading methods are a form of slavery, so the campaign continues.

**D.C. Wilson**  
Burnside Cottage,  
Strontian

*The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent those of the University of Edinburgh. Letters may be edited for space reasons.*

For all the latest University news, visit:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/news](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news)

# New centre puts Arab world studies on map

A new centre that seeks to enhance understanding of the Arabic-speaking world has been officially opened at the University.

The Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) will bring together world-class scholars from the universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester. It is the first initiative of its kind in the UK.

CASAW will provide a coordinated approach to teaching and research in the field of Arab World studies at both Masters and PhD level.

The establishment of the new centre builds on the international reputation of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester in Middle Eastern Studies. Arabic has been studied at Edinburgh for more than 250 years.

The University of Edinburgh attracts more undergraduates into the field of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies than any other British university and is the highest rated department of its kind in the UK for research output and standing.

# Spin-out sale helps to open doors for scholarship students

The University is to allocate a total of £2.6 million to create a number of new scholarships following the sale of its spin-out company MTEM.

The oil field technology firm was sold in June to the Norwegian group Petroleum Geo-Services for £138 million. Part of the University’s income from the sale will fund postgraduate research scholarships. Depending on how the scholarships are divided, this will mean that as many as 48 UK or EU students, or up to 31 students from outside the EU, will benefit from the scholarships.



The University has agreed that 25 per cent of this money will fund scholarships during the 2007–2008 session and the remaining 75 per cent will go towards funding for new PhD entrants during the 2008–2009 session. Each award will cover tuition fees and an allowance of £12,920.

# Honorary degree withdrawn

The University has formally withdrawn the honorary degree awarded to Robert Mugabe in the early 1980s. It is the first time in the University’s history that an honorary degree has been withdrawn and the decision was taken after lengthy and careful deliberation.

After hearing evidence relating to the situation in Zimbabwe in the early 1980s – evidence that was not available to the

University at the time the degree was conferred – the University Senate unanimously agreed to accept the recommendation, from a group of three senior professors established to consider the circumstances relating to Mr Mugabe’s award, that the degree should not have been conferred and should be withdrawn.

Mr Mugabe was told in writing and given a reasonable period to comment on the proposed withdrawal. The University did not receive a reply, and his degree was formally withdrawn on 16 July.

## OBITUARY



**Sir John Burnett**  
Former Principal and Vice-Chancellor

The University is deeply saddened to note the passing of Sir John Burnett, Principal and Vice-Chancellor from 1978 to 1987, in Oxford on 22 July.

Sir John will be remembered as an energetic, determined and fair leader, firmly rooted in the tradition of academic governance and deeply committed to academic excellence.

During his principalship the University developed enormously.

First steps were taken in fundraising, commercialisation of research became increasingly important, library automation was initiated and student accommodation expanded significantly.

Pressures for increased efficiency resulted in changes to teaching, committee structures and the conduct of business.

Support services were increasingly professionalised, and turnover rose from £32 million to £110 million.

A highlight was the University’s celebration of its 400th anniversary, which Sir John led with vigour and enthusiasm.

Sir John was very active on the higher education scene nationally, and served as Vice-Chair of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (now Universities UK).

# a cure lies in COLLABORATION



**TARA WOMERSLEY reports on the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, a centre of excellence that will strengthen University researchers' understanding of motor neurone disease.**

On his morning commute to work at investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort in London, Euan MacDonald realised something was not quite right when he started having difficulty changing the gears on his bicycle.

A loss of power in his thumb, coupled with a twitching in his left arm muscles, were the first telltale signs that he needed to seek medical advice.

In 2003 – just three years after finishing his law studies at the University of Edinburgh – Euan was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND), a debilitating and ultimately fatal condition for which treatment is limited and no cure exists.

Since then, Euan, now a staunch advocate of raising awareness of the disease, has returned to his home town of Edinburgh, where he lives with his wife, Liz, and two young sons, Alec and Finlay. Together with his father, Donald, also an Edinburgh law graduate, Euan has made a substantial donation to the University to create the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research.

The Centre, which will form part of a worldwide drive to research for a cure, will bring together experts from a wide range of disciplines with the aim of furthering understanding of the disease.

The generous seven-figure donation from Euan and his father, who is co-founder and



*“Motor neurone disease can affect anyone, no matter how fit and healthy they may seem. It is only by understanding the exact mechanisms of the disease that improvements in treatments can be made.”*

Vice-Chairman of the City Inn hotel chain and Joint Chairman of Caledonian Brewery, has enabled the University to expand an already existing consortium of 20 scientists and physicians undertaking MND research. The world-class Centre will combine expertise from areas such as regenerative medicine, stem cell research, neuroscience and molecular medicine.

Euan, who is actively involved with the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, says: “The University already has a strong research base with a lot of strong science in this area. The setting up of a dedicated centre will build on that. By bringing scientists together from different fields and with a clinical focus, we hope to improve patient care and work towards better treatments.

“At present, nobody really knows what causes motor neurone disease although in a small minority of cases it can be inherited. It can affect anyone, no matter how fit and healthy they may seem. It is only by understanding the exact mechanisms of the disease that improvements in treatments can be made.”

At any one time, some 5,000 people in the UK are affected with MND. Most diagnoses are made in patients aged over 40, but Euan was told he had the condition when he was just 29.

MND affects the motor neurones (nerve cells) in the brain and spinal cord. As the motor neurones gradually die the muscles stop working, which can lead to paralysis and severe breathing difficulties. It is a progressive disease with a stark prognosis – life expectancy for most patients is estimated at two to five years.

The University is now recruiting a senior clinical fellow to coordinate its clinical and basic research for the Euan MacDonald Centre. The Centre will be based next to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where the University already has a solid research presence. It will also run alongside the University's Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, which is set to benefit from a purpose-built facility to develop stem cell lines and where researchers are already working towards medical therapies for illnesses including MND, cancer, Parkinson's and liver disease.

Last August, shortly after announcing the Euan MacDonald Centre, the University hosted a two-day symposium into the condition, which was attended by internationally renowned experts. The event featured presentations on the latest research carried out in Edinburgh, as well as talks from senior investigators from around the UK. Keynote lectures were delivered by three of the world's leading experts on MND, Professor Don Cleveland of the University of California, San Diego; Professor Nigel Leigh, of Kings College, London; and Professor Jeffrey Rothstein, Director of the Robert Packard Centre at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Professor Richard Ribchester, Chair of Cellular Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, coordinated the event and has played a major role in the setting up of the Euan MacDonald Centre. He comments: “While there may be no one answer to motor neurone disease, it is by working together on an international stage that we hope that the Euan MacDonald Centre will have a major impact on shedding light on

this pernicious illness. We all have a common goal and the Centre will place a strong emphasis on the sharing of research and building up research collaborations.”

The Euan MacDonald Centre is the only one of its kind in Scotland and staff will work closely with the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association. Researchers will also liaise with other centres of excellence such as the Packard Center in the US and the King's Motor Neurone Disease Care and Research Centre in London. The donation from the MacDonalds will also enable the University to establish key clinical and scientific training posts, with a view to the Centre becoming self-sufficient through funding, grants and donations within five years.

Donald MacDonald says: “There is just one drug currently licensed in the UK to treat motor neurone disease. But this drug, riluzole, has been shown to slow down the disease by only a few months.

“To target the disease, scientists need to understand exactly why motor neurones, which control voluntary muscle activity, such as speaking, walking and breathing, break down. Edinburgh has a worldwide reputation for cutting-edge medical research and the setting up of a centre into motor neurone disease will further provide insight and knowledge into the condition, ultimately leading to improved treatments.”

**For more information on the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, phone Chloe Kippen on + (0)131 650 2240 or email [chloe.kippen@ed.ac.uk](mailto:chloe.kippen@ed.ac.uk).**

# Fighting Freedom

FOR

**Edinburgh graduate Emily Maw has established a reputation as a champion for human rights through her work fighting miscarriages of justice in the US. The 31-year-old lawyer recently returned to Edinburgh to collect her Alumnus of the Year 2007 award.**

*A young foreign lawyer fighting to free a black man wrongly convicted of raping and murdering a white woman in America's Deep South isn't always going to receive a warm welcome when she knocks on doors in search of the truth. But Emily Maw has remained steadfastly committed to ensuring innocent prisoners get their day in court. After studying law at Edinburgh and in the US, Emily worked as a voluntary capital defence investigator before taking up her current post as Director of Innocence Project New Orleans, a non-profit organisation which, in the past six years, has overturned 12 wrongful convictions for men sentenced to life without parole. On her return to Edinburgh, Emily took time out to discuss the challenges of her work with broadcaster and journalist, fellow alumna **Sheena McDonald**.*

**SM: Why did you decide to study at Edinburgh?**

**EM:** I came to Scotland to visit a friend in 1995 and thought Edinburgh was the coolest place I'd ever seen. So I made a very last-minute application and I got in.

**SM: And did Edinburgh turn out to be as 'cool' as you hoped?**

**EM:** It was cold! Much colder than I'd experienced [Emily is originally from England]. But I love Edinburgh and I'm so glad I came here.

**SM: So what took you to the US?**

**EM:** I spent my third undergraduate year at Trinity College in Dublin, where I studied the death penalty in the American Deep South. I learned that there were lawyers in the US tackling human rights violations – not in any international criminal court, but in ordinary courtrooms, representing individuals threatened with the death penalty. I thought that was incredibly inspiring and I wanted to be one of those people. So I applied for an internship with the Louisiana Crisis

Assistance Center [LCAC]. I came back to complete my LLB at Edinburgh, and went back out as soon as I could.

**SM: It's strange because you think of the United States as...**

**EM:** ...the leader of the Free World, I know. And yet it has more of its citizens locked up than any other country. And a disproportionate number of them are black.

**SM: So as an intern you were already committed to battling injustice...**

**EM:** Yes – although in hindsight somewhat blindly. I think I probably always felt strongly about people who are treated unfairly – that's what drives me. I love my job now, but it was a long road to get there – volunteering, living with no money again for four and a half years. Because I was very attracted to the work I was doing, it was necessary to go to law school in the States to develop my skills [Emily completed a law degree at Tulane Law School in Louisiana], with the help of merit scholarships and loans.

**SM: As Director of Innocence Project New Orleans [IPNO], your focus is now on 'life without parole' cases – can you give me an example of what you do?**

**EM:** IPNO exists to prove that the criminal justice system makes mistakes – and to demonstrate how they can be prevented in the future.

Travis Hayes and his friend Ryan Matthews were just 17 when they were convicted of murder after they were picked up driving a car that was superficially similar to another car used in a robbery that turned into murder. It was a huge miscarriage of justice and a shocking example of the abuse of racial profiling – both the boys are black – and in that part of the world, black men suffer systemic oppression and discrimination at the hands of the criminal justice system.

Travis was sentenced to life without parole; Ryan was sentenced to death. When a good lawyer started re-investigating Ryan's sentence, the real culprit was found, bragging about it in jail, and DNA evidence at the scene matched. So Ryan got out. But it took another two and a half years to get Travis out. The state said: 'These are separate cases.' No-one cares about life-without-parole prisoners – strangely, we were lucky Ryan was on death row.

**SM: Your initial interest was with death penalty work... What were you doing as an intern with the LCAC?**

**EM:** Investigation work. Defence lawyers rely on their own investigators, and the

work of capital defence investigators often dictates the outcome of a capital trial. But they often don't have the money to hire professionals. So I was digesting old records, reading transcripts... It gave me a real introduction to what's needed – preparing for the trial, finding and bringing witnesses and experts to court, and so on. There's a desperate need for help.

**SM: What's the scale of that need?**

**EM:** It's huge. IPNO is the only non-profit organisation in the Deep South serving approximately 60,000 prisoners who have no rights to a lawyer, and that includes almost 4,000 serving life without parole in Louisiana alone. Louisiana and Mississippi are poor states, so there's not much public money and no effective system of providing lawyers with money. There are public defenders doing good work but they're totally under-resourced – they can't afford to hire an investigator. The state, of course, has enormous resources. Defence lawyers are trying to match the resources the state has, so volunteers have a vital job to do.

Injustice comes about if you simply don't invest in lawyers for poor people, and they get convicted for crimes they didn't do. And one of the causes of wrongful convictions is prosecutor and police misconduct – for instance, hiding evidence – because it's good for their career to get more convictions.

**SM: How do you change that?**

**EM:** Defence isn't a political priority.

Politicians get rewarded for being tough on crime, not paying for another defence lawyer. But I do think over the past 10 to 15 years there's a slight recognition in the States that defence lawyers are woefully under-resourced, and there's been some response to that. Even George Bush said something in his State of the Union address in 2004: 'We must not have innocent people in prison.' So public opinion is slowly changing, and partly because of the sheer number of exonerations. Juries are starting to demand more from the state than just one eyewitness – eyewitnesses can be wrong! Also, it's not so politically outrageous now for people to say: 'You get the justice you pay for.'

**SM: And technology has made a difference?**

**EM:** There have been 209 DNA exonerations since 1989 and hundreds more non-DNA exonerations. DNA evidence gets more publicity because it's unassailable.

**SM: You've chosen a hard road!**

**EM:** There's something very sad about working in the belly of the beast in the United States! But I really enjoy what I do. Every day, I think how unbelievably lucky I am.

**SM: And here you are back in Edinburgh for a few days... was this city important to you?**

**EM:** Very much. Edinburgh gave me an amazing, profound sense of possibility, and I still love it.

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2006/07



## AUGUST 2006

### University hosts Festival events

The annual Fringe brings a carnival atmosphere to Edinburgh every August, attracting thousands of international visitors and providing an opportunity for the University to engage with both the local community and visitors from further afield. The University Festivals Office provides homes to some of the biggest players on the festival scene. Its venues sold 436,000 tickets and saw 800,000 people pass through its doors. Shows playing at University venues ranged from Broadway legends Mummenschanz to Brazilian company Circo Teatro Udi Grudi, plus a number of top comedy acts including Doug Stanhope and Jimeoin.

## SEPTEMBER 2006

### New £5.5 million engineering facility opens

The William Rankine Building, a £5.5 million facility that will help researchers tackle some of the toughest challenges in civil and environmental engineering, was officially opened by Gordon Masterton, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Work carried out at the William Rankine Building will have a direct impact on industry and commerce and help support green initiatives in the wider community. Appropriately, the building incorporates state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly technology. Solar panels help reduce dependency on the national grid and hardwood timber cladding, from a sustainable source, will insulate the building and keep it dry. The building also features a sunlight-tracking device – the first of its kind in the UK – that draws daylight into the building and further reduces energy bills. The building is the result of substantial investment by the University in the School of Engineering & Electronics.



## OCTOBER 2006

### The University of Edinburgh Campaign launches

October saw the launch of the University of Edinburgh Campaign, the largest fundraising campaign for higher education in Scotland. The Campaign aims to raise £350 million for more than 30 priority projects by 2011, and has already hit a £200 million milestone. Projects to benefit from the Campaign include undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, the Main Library's redevelopment, regenerative medicine research and the new Vet School. The Campaign will also address the needs for refurbishment and restoration of Teviot, the McEwan Hall and Old College Quad, as well as seek funds for a variety of chairs and fellowships.

## NOVEMBER 2006

### New Centre for Studies of the Arab World established

The creation of a new national centre of excellence focusing on research into the Arabic-speaking world was announced. Based at the University, the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) brings together world-class scholars from the universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester in the first initiative of its kind in the UK. The Centre will provide a coordinated approach to teaching and research in the field of Arab World studies at both masters and PhD level. Initially, its core activity will be the provision of a unique and innovative Masters programme in Arab World Studies, which will provide intensive language teaching and develop students' knowledge and understanding of the region.



## DECEMBER 2006

### Football Club reaches Scottish Cup milestone

Edinburgh University AFC made club history by reaching the second round of the Tennant's Scottish Cup. The team's last Scottish Cup appearance was in 1973. An impressive crowd of 1,000 witnessed the University team beat Highland League side Keith 2-1, in a victory that would take them to face second division side Cowdenbeath FC – a clash that would become the biggest game in the club's history. Despite a 5-1 defeat to Cowdenbeath FC, the club's achievements were hailed a success by Head Coach Dougie Samuel, who commented: "There was a great sense of disappointment after the Cowdenbeath match, but these feelings will pass and, in time, the players will look on this season's Scottish Cup run as having been a wonderful experience."

## JANUARY 2007

### University to develop Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine

The Scottish Executive announced funding of £24 million to enable the University to develop a Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRM). The University will work in close collaboration with Scottish Enterprise in developing the £59 million centre to provide state-of-the-art research facilities, manufacturing capacity and commercialisation facilities. The University's Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea, said: "Scotland has a world lead in fundamental stem cell sciences. This backing will allow Scotland to build on its international lead and at the same time make a very significant contribution to the health of many people across the world."

The University will publish its *Annual Review*, covering the financial year 2006/07, in January. The *Review* focuses on the University community's contribution to excellence, and here, *Edit* outlines just some of the highlights from 2006/07. The full *Review* will be available electronically at [www.ed.ac.uk/annual\\_review](http://www.ed.ac.uk/annual_review), and can also be made available in Braille and large print format, or on CD, disc or audio cassette.

If you are attending the General Council meeting on Saturday 9 February 2008, and would like a copy in advance, please contact us at Communications and Marketing, The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE; email [communications.office@ed.ac.uk](mailto:communications.office@ed.ac.uk); telephone 0131 650 2252.



## FEBRUARY 2007

### Researchers discover treatment hope for Rett Syndrome

University researchers discovered that the symptoms of Rett Syndrome – a severe autism spectrum disorder, which was previously considered untreatable – could be reversed. The condition, which affects at least 10,000 children in the UK, can leave sufferers wheelchair bound, unable to speak and afflicted with breathing difficulties. A team of experts at the University, led by Professor Adrian Bird, has now been able to make symptoms disappear in mice by activating a specific gene. Professor Bird says: "Until now it had been thought that Rett Syndrome is irrevocable, but our findings show that the damage to nerve cell function is, in fact, reversible. This gives a major boost to the search for treatments or a potential cure." Further research may also show that the results could apply to other autism spectrum disorders.

## MARCH 2007

### Delegation celebrates links with China in Beijing

More than 150 years of collaboration between the University and China was marked in style when a delegation of staff visited Beijing to celebrate Chinese academic achievement at the University. The contingent was led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea, who presided over a special ceremony at the State Guest House in Beijing. The highlight of the event was the awarding of an honorary degree to University of Edinburgh alumnus Professor Zhong Nanshan, who identified the SARS virus. The award was made in the presence of Chinese graduates of the University who were invited to attend the ceremony. The ceremony was held 152 years after Huang Kuan, the first Chinese graduate of any European University, graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh.



## APRIL 2007

### Final lecture delivered in 'Scotland and the Union' series

The final lecture in a high-profile series that marks the tercentenary of the Anglo-Scottish Union of 1707 was delivered at the University in April. The University of Edinburgh's popular and prestigious 'Scotland and the Union' series of lectures featured leading scholars and commentators. Debates and lectures considered the controversial origins of the Treaty, the global consequences of the Anglo-Scottish relationship, nationalism and devolution in the late 20th century and the state of the Union today. Speakers included Professor Tom Devine (above), Dr Richard Holloway, Dr Tam Dalyell, Alan Massie and Dr Magnus Linklater. The four events, which were supported by Simon Fennell, Goldman & Sachs, also provided audience members with the opportunity to ask questions or comment.

## MAY 2007

### BioQuarter plans announced

The University of Edinburgh, Scottish Enterprise and NHS Lothian formed a joint venture to develop a new commercial research campus at the Centre for Biomedical Research. The new partnership is expected to create 6,500 new jobs and attract millions of pounds in investment. The campus, next to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the University's Queen's Medical Research Institute at Little France, is being re-branded as Edinburgh BioQuarter. The multioccupancy building will house cutting-edge facilities to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation and offer access to lab space for exploratory research. Once complete, the project is expected to generate an additional £350 million per annum for the Scottish economy.



## JUNE 2007

### The Royal (Dick) Vet School marks 50 years

Half a century since the first vets received degrees from the University of Edinburgh was marked with a homecoming weekend for alumni and special graduation ceremony for current students. More than 300 alumni from all over the world came to Edinburgh for the weekend to mark 50 years since the first students graduated with Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degrees after the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies joined the University in 1951. Among the alumni were 10 out of the original 17 vets who graduated from the University in 1957 after six years of study. Members from the "Class of 1957" joined a graduation procession for 109 newly qualified vets and postgraduate students. The School's patron, HRH The Princess Royal, also attended the ceremony and praised the "leading-edge work carried out by staff and students".

## JULY 2007

### Bipolar disorder linked with brain tissue loss

University researchers found that people with bipolar disorder, also known as manic depression, suffer from an accelerated shrinking of their brain. The study shows for the first time that bipolar disorder – a condition characterised by periods of depression and periods of mania – is associated with a reduction in brain tissue and proves that the changes get progressively worse with each relapse. Dr Andrew McIntosh, Health Foundation Clinician Scientist and lead researcher, said: "This discovery has implications not only for the way we research the disease, but may also impact the way this condition is treated."

# Alumni Network



## Destination Washington DC

Following on from the success of previous events in London in 2004 and Paris in 2006, the University will be taking its meeting of the General Council to Washington DC in June 2008. In addition to the official meeting and General Council lunch, a full programme of events will take place from Friday 13 June through to Sunday 15 June, to which all alumni are warmly welcome.

Events will include a business seminar on the theme of climate change, a reception at the British Embassy, tours of Georgetown University, a dinner in the Library of Congress, and a service at the National Cathedral of Washington.

Full details, together with a booking form, can be found on page 37 of this magazine, and on [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk) or [www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk).

We look forward to welcoming you to Washington in June.



## Graduates' Association welcomes all Edinburgh alumni

The University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association (UEGA) welcomes all University alumni as members, including those who studied for diplomas and professional qualifications, exchange and ERASMUS students, as well as graduates, former and current University staff and their partners. UEGA enables alumni to keep in contact with each other and with the University.

In addition to monthly meetings on the first Saturday morning at Café Delos in the Royal Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street, other events for 2008 will include the Annual General Meeting

on 14 February; the Annual Reception and Buffet on 4 March in the Playfair Library, after which the Principal of the University, Professor Timothy O'Shea, will speak; lunches featuring guest speakers; a visit to the Queen's Gallery at Holyrood Palace in March; and a guided walk from Dean Village to Stockbridge on 28 May, including an opportunity to visit the Bell's Mill area and view the interior of St Bernard's Well.

Tickets for events sell quickly; book early if you would like to join us. UEGA's *University of Edinburgh Journal*

is sent to members twice a year; members are encouraged to contribute original articles and writing, especially pieces about or connected with the University.

For more details about the Association, please contact: Joan Meikle, Assistant Secretary, University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association, 24 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN (phone +44 (0)131 650 4292; fax +44 (0)131 650 4293; email [Miss.Tunstall@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Miss.Tunstall@ed.ac.uk); or visit [www.dev.ed.ac.uk/gradassoc](http://www.dev.ed.ac.uk/gradassoc)). The Association Office is usually open Monday–Friday 9.30am–12.30pm.

For all the latest Alumni news, visit:  
[www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk)

## FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS

### University of Edinburgh Club of Toronto (EDUCT)

#### The 2008 Burns' Nightcap

**Thursday 24 January 2008**  
6.30pm–9.30pm  
(the night before Burns)  
Venue tbc

This year will see the event combine the traditional with some new initiatives for your entertainment – the haggis returns!

For details of this event and to RSVP, please contact:  
Chris Setchell  
Tel: +1 416 544 0641  
Email: [chris.setchell@yahoo.ca](mailto:chris.setchell@yahoo.ca)

#### How the Brain Builds Models of the World

**Sunday 2 March 2008**  
3pm–5pm  
The Arts & Letters Club,  
14 Elm Street, Toronto

Geoffrey Hinton (PhD Edinburgh, 1978), Professor of Computer Science, University of Toronto, will speak on artificial intelligence, which he studied at Edinburgh. He has devoted much of his career to research into how the brain works. In addition to his PhD from Edinburgh, and in recognition of his contributions to his field, he was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Edinburgh in 2001.

To RSVP to this event, contact:  
Margaret Reid  
Tel: +1 416 535 8501 (x7802)  
Email: [mmreid@yahoo.ca](mailto:mmreid@yahoo.ca)

#### EDUCT Annual Dinner

**Friday 11 April 2008**  
6.30pm, The Great Hall  
The Arts & Letters Club,  
14 Elm Street, Toronto

Dr Charles Withers, Head of the Institute of Geography at Edinburgh University, which will celebrate its centenary in 2008, will be the after-dinner speaker at this event. He will introduce us to some of the more fascinating dimensions of the research being undertaken in this very eclectic field, such as that on climate change.

To RSVP to this event, please contact:  
Simon Miles  
Tel: +1 416 466 8793  
Email: [simon-miles@sympatico.ca](mailto:simon-miles@sympatico.ca)

### University of Edinburgh Alumni in Atlanta

#### Seventh annual Burns' Event

**Sunday 3 February 2008**  
2pm–5pm  
Burns Cottage, Alloway Place, Atlanta  
Contact: [hh\\_a@bellsouth.net](mailto:hh_a@bellsouth.net)

#### Scottish Highland Bands performance

**Sunday 16 March 2008**,  
3pm  
The Fox Theatre  
Contact: [hh\\_a@bellsouth.net](mailto:hh_a@bellsouth.net)

### University of Edinburgh Swimming & Water Polo Club

#### 120th Anniversary

**Saturday 9 February 2008**  
Afternoon, from 1pm: swimming and water polo matches (current students versus alumni)

Evening: Ceilidh at Teviot

The event will be a very special opportunity to re-live your University days, and the current students would love to meet past members of the club.

For details of this event, please contact:  
Judith Kilgallon  
Email: [s0675134@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:s0675134@sms.ed.ac.uk)  
Tel: 07841 115653

### University of Edinburgh Rugby Football Club

#### 150th Anniversary Ball

**Saturday 22 March 2008**  
Murrayfield  
For details of this event, please contact:  
Website:  
[www.edinburghuniversityrfc.co.uk](http://www.edinburghuniversityrfc.co.uk)  
Email: [mattbennet@hotmail.com](mailto:mattbennet@hotmail.com)

REUNIONS



Members of the class of MA French 1962 had an enjoyable meal catching up at their 45th anniversary reunion recently. The event took place at Braidwoods Restaurant, Dalry, Ayrshire.

Remembering moon landings and miniskirts

Moon landings, miniskirts, the common market, protest marches and student rector battles in Old Quad were remembered recently at the class of 1972 Agriculture reunion.

Celebrating 35 years since their graduation, 20 out of the 27 students of that year attended the reunion dinner on 13 October at Edinburgh's Carlton Hotel and, give or take a few grey hairs, no-one had changed

a bit since the photograph, below, was taken in 1969!



The graduates of MB ChB 1947, and their guests, celebrated their 60th anniversary of graduation in Edinburgh in July with a lunch at Old College. The event was hailed a great success by all who attended.

Does 2008 mark a significant anniversary of your graduation from the University of Edinburgh?

Perhaps five, 10, 25 or even 50 years? Maybe your class is already planning a reunion – that's great, and hopefully we already know about it, but if not please let us know. If you haven't started organising your reunion yet, then don't worry, it's not too late. Development & Alumni can help you to contact your former classmates, find a venue and give other general advice and assistance. Simply visit our website at [www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk) or email [beth.munro@ed.ac.uk](mailto:beth.munro@ed.ac.uk) to request a copy of our *Guidelines on Organising a Reunion*. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fifty years on and still going strong

The class of MB ChB 1957 held their 50th anniversary reunion at Peebles Hydro Hotel in September. A total of 85 graduates and their guests attended, and the group marked their special occasion by making a gift of £600 to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust.

For all the latest University news, visit: [www.ed.ac.uk/news](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news)

For details of alumni clubs or reunions, or to make contact with a reunion organiser, please contact Beth Munro, Development & Alumni, tel +44 (0)131 650 2240, email [beth.munro@ed.ac.uk](mailto:beth.munro@ed.ac.uk) or visit [www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk).

Reunions in 2008

- 1948 MB ChB**  
Dr Douglas Bell  
**17–18 June 2008**  
Ten Hill Place, Royal College of Surgeons  
Contact: [belldouglas@btinternet.com](mailto:belldouglas@btinternet.com)

**1954–58 Chemistry**  
(50th anniversary)  
Dilys Jeffrey-Smith  
**June or September 2008**  
Contact: [d.jeffreysmith@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:d.jeffreysmith@tiscali.co.uk)

**1958 MB ChB**  
Iain Davidson, Hugh Murray, William Cutting  
**5–6 October 2008 (tbc)**  
Dunkeld House Hotel

**1958 Geography**  
John Mackay  
**19–21 September 2008**  
Edinburgh  
Contact: 0131 226 2512

**1961 MB ChB**  
Brian Ivey  
**6–9 September 2008**  
Ottawa, Canada

**1963 MB ChB**  
Boyd Moir  
**12–14 September 2008**  
Peebles Hydro Hotel  
Contact: [boyd\\_moir@msn.com](mailto:boyd_moir@msn.com)

**1968 MB ChB**  
John Crispin  
**22–24 August 2008**  
Peebles Hydro Hotel

**1978 German**  
Elisabeth Watts  
**21–22 June**  
Contact: [elisabethwatts@yahoo.it](mailto:elisabethwatts@yahoo.it)

**1978 LLB**  
Hector MacQueen
- 1978 Social Science**  
Carol Davidson

**1987/1988 BVM&S**  
Ali Cullum

**1988 MB ChB**  
Clare Livingston  
**6–8 June 2008**  
Peebles Hydro Hotel

**1988 Agricultural Economics**  
Harry Elwin

**1993 Geography**  
Robert Thomson

**1993 MB ChB**  
Simon Parke

**1997 BSc Physics**  
Bernard Bowers  
**1 February 2008**  
Dinner and Ceilidh in Edinburgh  
[bbowers@musselburghgrammar.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:bbowers@musselburghgrammar.elcschool.org.uk)

**1998 Geography**  
Peter Impey

**1998 BSc Anatomical Sciences**  
Gillian Speed  
**Date and venue tbc**  
Contact: [craigandgilly@speed25.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:craigandgilly@speed25.wanadoo.co.uk)

**1998 MB ChB**  
Dr Vineet Wadehra

**Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers**  
40th anniversary reunion  
**1 March 2008**  
Sarah Campbell  
Concert at Canongate Church, followed by ceilidh supper  
Contact: [csarahcampbell@btinternet.com](mailto:csarahcampbell@btinternet.com)

Reunions in 2009

- 1956 MB ChB**  
Rose Clarke  
**18 September 2009**  
Raeburn Room, Old College (lunch)  
Contact: Dr Rose Clark, Flat 9, 2 Western Harbour Place, Edinburgh EH6 6NG

**1959 MB ChB**  
Dr Allan Forsyth  
**7 September 2009**  
Edinburgh

Creative writing alumni to publish new book

A major volume of new writing, featuring a selection of the best work produced during the first five years of the MSc course in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh, has been launched.

Entitled *V: New International Writing from Edinburgh*, the book is edited by course organisers, Dilys Rose and Robert Alan Jamieson, and contains a blend of fiction, poetry and drama. It features work by 44 alumni, as well as 13 fine illustrations produced by students of Edinburgh College of Art.

Contributing writers represent 15 countries, with origins as broadly spread as Yellowknife, Windhoek, Moscow, Athens and Yokohama, as well as 15 of the American states. The book is available from University shops or via the Edinburgh Review website ([www.englit.ed.ac.uk/edinburghreview](http://www.englit.ed.ac.uk/edinburghreview)).

**A Successful Setting Works Wonders**

Choice of venue plays a very big part in any successful reunion. The secret is in being relaxed. Knowing that you are looked after by highly experienced professionals creates just the right atmosphere for success. Tell us of your plans and we'll show you how to get together with confidence.

**Peebles Hydro HOTEL**  
★★★★★  
**01721 720602** [www.peebleshydro.co.uk](http://www.peebleshydro.co.uk)  
[conferences@peebleshydro.co.uk](mailto:conferences@peebleshydro.co.uk)

**McMillan Hotels** *A family owned collection*  
[www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk](http://www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk)

# World Service



## 1940s

**Mr Ian Callan** BSc 1941 and **Mrs Katharyn Callan** BSc 1942 Recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. For the past 22 years they have opened their six-acre wildlife garden to the public, under the National Gardens Scheme.

**Dr William Taylor** MB ChB 1942 Published *Poems of Wartime Years*, a book of poems about his experiences as a wartime medic.

**Dr Margaret Patterson** MA 1948 and **Dr John Patterson** MB ChB 1951 Acted for several years as volunteer selectors for international development charity VSO, following on from their own VSO service in Pakistan in the 1990s.

**Mrs Betty Boyden (née Campbell)** MA Ord 1948 Recently published the book *Portrait of a Country*, which describes how her family was affected by national and international events in the years between 1897 (the birth of her father) and 2001 (the death of her mother).

**Mrs Judith Poore** BSc 1949 Edited the book *The Memoirs of Emily Loch: Discretion in Waiting*.

## 1950s

**Dr Gerald Howat** MA 1950 Had his 21st book (his autobiography), *Cricket all my Life*, shortlisted for the Cricket Book of the Year 2006.

**Dr Thomas Sandeman** MB ChB 1950, MD 1963 Retired, sedentary golfer living on the edge of the best golf course in Australia. Busy writing unpublished masterpieces of little interest to Edinburgh folk! Looking forward to being 80 soon.

**Captain Donald Watson** MA 1950 After retiring from the Royal Navy, continued to teach and examine sailing for the Royal Yachting Association, only giving up five years ago to take up golf.

**Mr Allan R M Murray** BSc 1953 His main interest since retirement has been working on a new biography of George Heriot, *The Life and Times of Jingling Geordie*. Has also written a book about his time at Ferranti.



**Dr Achyut Thatte** PhD 1954 Celebrated his and wife Usha's 50th wedding anniversary in June 2007 in Mumbai, India. Before retiring, served on the faculty of the Electronics Department of the SNDT University, Mumbai.

**Mrs Elisabeth (Dinny) Culican Ward (née Badenoch)** MA 1954 Remarried Professor Robert George Ward and based in Melbourne, Australia. Retired as Head of a women's college at James Cook University in North Queensland and is now a historical writer and researcher in early children's literature.

**Mrs Patricia Johnson (née Scott)** BSc 1955 Has been to Uganda on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry, which has a programme for improving chemistry teaching in developing areas.

**Professor Leslie G Tait** PhD 1955 Wrote a chapter for a new American book, *Colonial Presbyterianism* (2007), entitled "John Witherspoon's Prescription for a Nation Strong, Free and Virtuous".

**Dr Tessa Ransford** MA 1958 Edinburgh publishers Luath Press will bring out *Not Just Moonshine*, a book of her new and selected poems, in 2008.

## 1960s

**Mr Victor Loewenstein** BCom 1960 Participates annually to a Management School lecture and subsequent seminar to the MBA class as well as the MSc in Management programme.

**Dr Robert Bailey** PhD 1962 Still active (part-time basis) in ministry and presbytery. With his wife, he participates in work with the Hungarian Reformed Church in parts of Hungary, the Ukraine and Romania.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



**James Meek**  
MA Hons 1985

**James is an award-winning reporter and author whose last novel, *The People's Act of Love*, has been translated into two dozen languages. His latest book, *We Are Now Beginning Our Descent*, will be published in February 2008.**

I can't say that being a student was the happiest time of my life but I have some very intense memories of Edinburgh. It's a remarkable city and I'm glad I went to university in a city that's a city and not just an adjunct of the university.

What Edinburgh provided was a meeting place; it's a kind of flag that is raised and people gather round it. There were quite a few writers – I'm still good friends with Duncan McLean and I met Kathleen Jamie recently; we were in the University Poetry Society together.

**“EDINBURGH WAS A VERY RICH PLACE VISUALLY.”**

As a teenager, I was infiltrated by the sights and the visual appearance of Edinburgh; its weather, its stones, its darkness and its lights. Even when you were feeling miserable it was a very rich place visually. So that fed my early work and the short stories I was writing then.

I think the Library was the first modern building that I thought, there's really something in this. There was a librarian I fancied but never quite plucked up the courage to do anything about. I've started to really love the British Library but it has taken me 20 years to get to that point. I wasn't ready for that kind of library when I was 17. But the library was ready for me, which was very nice of them – they let me in.

We are happy to forward correspondence to graduates for whom we hold current address details. Please contact Development & Alumni to take advantage of this service.

**Dr Josef L Rich OBE** BDS 1962 Was installed as the 120th president of the British Dental Association in May 2007.



**Professor Sir James Fraser Stoddart**  
BSc 1964, PhD 1966, DSc 1980  
On 13 June 2007, received his knighthood at Buckingham Palace for Services to Chemistry and Molecular Nanotechnology.

**Dr Christopher Lawson** BSc 1966 PhD 1970 Was a member of the research group of Dai Rees and worked on carrageenans.

**Mr Barry Sesnan MBE** BSc (SS) 1968 Was awarded an MBE for services to education in East Africa in 1993. Continues to work in education, development and humanitarian coordination, and is currently in Ivory Coast working on an emergency education programme for children displaced by civil war, and as a consultant/manager for Echo Bravo, an organisation for educationalists.

**Mr Martin P Brown** BSc 1969 Retired in December 2005 after working for Wiggins Teape and then in Australia for Kodak and Visy. Married with two daughters, three grandsons and one grand-daughter. And yes, he supports the Aussies in the Ashes.

**Ms Ilona Aronovsky** MA 1969 Her teaching materials for schools on the Ancient Indus Valley Civilisation has been recommended by England's Curriculum Authority and published by the BBC.

## 1970s

**Mr Michael D Thomson** BMus 1970 After a 43-year association with St Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen, including 25 years as Assistant Organist, was appointed Director of Music with responsibility for overseeing and coordinating all areas of the cathedral's musical activities.

**Mr David Brauner** MLitt 1972 Currently helping Rabbi Dr Isaac Zalman Cohen put the finishing touches on his magnum opus *Acts of the Mind in Jewish Ritual Law: An Insight into Rabbinic Psychology*, in part inspired by his PhD thesis.

**Mrs Anne Brocklesby (née Blaike)** BSc (SS) 1972 Works full time at Wandsworth Care Alliance, a registered charity, developing outreach and project work.

**Mr Richard Leiser-Banks** BSc 1972 Having qualified as a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland in 1977, became a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in the US in 2005.

**Dr David Noble** PhD 1972 Helped to create a Minor in Writing and Publishing for the English Department at the University of Indianapolis. Teaches a cycle of courses on editing, writing and desktop publishing.

**Mrs Felicity Capey** MA 1973 Enjoys travelling the world, and has just returned from a trip to Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos.

**Professor Ian Swingland** PhD 1973 Founder of The Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and holds the Emeritus Chair in Conservation Biology at the University of Kent, in addition to Visiting Chairs at the Universities of Michigan, Florence and Auckland.

**Mr Ninian Peckitt** BDS 1974 Left the UK to develop a programme in Engineering Assisted Surgery in New Zealand.

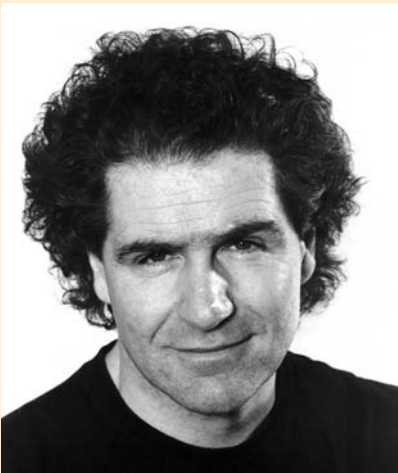
**Dr Asher (Wallace) Wade** BD 1974 Began a position as Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Touro College in Jerusalem in 2005. Also has a private practice as a clinical psychotherapist and frequently speaks on the international lecture circuit.

**Mr Grant Buchan-Terrell** JYA 1975 Member of Educt in Toronto, Canada. Brought his family back to Edinburgh in 2000.

**Mrs Elizabeth Baggallay** MA 1976 Moving back to Edinburgh after 30 years down south. Has been a Master of Wine for 25 years and has been writing the wine column for *House & Garden* for 11 years, as well as working as a wine educator and consultant.

**Stephen Keat** JYA 1977 Has been a US diplomat with the State Department since October 1983. Is presently assigned to Washington, DC, and is about to start a new posting in the office that deals with intellectual property rights protection.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



**Nigel Beaham-Powell**  
MA Hons 1978

**Nigel lectures in Commercial Music at Bath Spa University and is one of the UK's leading composers for film, television and advertising. His most recent credits include *9/11 Underworld* for Channel 4.**

I actually studied Medieval and Renaissance Literature, but I was always in bands and I brought bands up to the Festival. I think it's important to get out of your own milieu when you go to University and for us southern English people to come to Edinburgh ... the Scots were very warm and I have some fond memories.

**“IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET OUT OF YOUR OWN MILIEU.”**

In 1980 I spent two and a half years trying to be a rock star with a band called Streets Ahead. We didn't manage it but the band gradually evolved into Streets Ahead Music, the company I run with Bella Russell. Since then we have composed more than 400 scores for film and TV and won 10 awards.

# World Service

**Mrs Sheila Szatkowski (née Devlin)** BA 1977 Edited *Capital Caricatures*, published in 2007. The book, introduced by Alexander McCall Smith, features the etchings of John Kay (1742–1826), the Edinburgh barber, miniaturist and social commentator.

**Dr James Thomason** BSc 1977 Returning to Scotland after 25 years roaming the world. Has recently been appointed as Professor of Advanced Materials and Composites in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Strathclyde.

**Miss Gillian Bardsley** MA 1977 MSc 1978 Wrote *Issigonis: The Official Biography*, the life story of Sir Alec Issigonis, published in 2005.

**Dr Kenneth Gordon** PhD 1978 Now in his 28th year on faculty and, after 10 years serving as Director of the School of Social Work, is beginning a two-year study leave from King's University College at the University of Western Ontario.

## 1980s

**Professor Kuruvilla George** MPhil 1980 In Victoria, Australia, and is currently Director of Aged Persons Mental Health in Eastern Health, Adjunct Professor at Deakin University and Deputy Chief Psychiatrist for Victoria.

**Dr Christine Bradshaw** BSc 1980 Married a medical doctor and subsequently took a degree in medicine at Manchester and became a GP. Received the Bronze Medal for Gallantry of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in May 2007.

**Mrs Barbara Lee** BVM&S 1980 After a period of semi-retirement, has set up a new SA/Eq practice in Wanaka, New Zealand.

**Mr George Lyall** LLB 1981 Working as a private client lawyer at Dickinson Dees. Married to Roz (Rosslyn Osbourne – UoE Nursing Studies Graduate) with three teenage sons.

**Mr D S M Nussbaum** MTh 1981 Started a new job as Chief Executive of WWF-UK in May 2007, having completed four years as Chief Executive of Berlin-based global anti-corruption organisation Transparency International. Is also a Non-Executive Director of Low Carbon Accelerator, an AIM-listed private equity fund investing in the new low carbon economy; and a Non-Executive Director of Shared Interest, the leading loan finance provider for Fair Trade. Has four children.

**Dr Wendy Nakanishi (née Jones)** PhD 1984 Has had a video interview posted on the internet by a Japanese academic researchers' network. It can be accessed at Zukan TV through any search engine: the research field is Arts and Literature.

**Mrs Amanda Lang** LLB 1985 Working as a midwife in Somerset and studying for a postgraduate qualification in Healthcare Ethics at Bristol University.

**Miss Sarah E Murray** MA 1985 Travelled the world to write *Moveable Feasts: The Incredible Journeys of the Things We Eat* (Aurum Press).



**Miss Anna Henly** BSc 1988 Won a highly commended award in the Shell/BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007 competition.

**Revd Dr Fergus King** BD 1989 Now Rector of the Anglican parish of the Good Shepherd Kotara South, with four sons. Completed a DTh in 2006 at the University of South Africa.

**Mr Andrew Lownie** MSc 1989 His *Edinburgh Literary Companion* was recently published.

## 1990s

**Dr Christopher Rawlinson** PhD 1990 Really a soldier who gained his PhD in 1990 specialising in NATO military logistics management. This led to serving in the Royal Army of Oman in charge of the Sultan's Armed Forces School of Transport

followed by an appointment in the elite Sultan's Special Force. Many an adventure! Now retired to southern Spain.

**Mrs Diana McCobb (née Holgate)** BSc 1990 Has two children, Kelvin and Bronwyn.

**Mr James Horlacher** MBA 1991 Married to Carol Ann Miller Horlacher, with baby son Nickolas.

**Mr Duncan M MacLaren** MTh 1992 Left post as Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis after the General Assembly in June 2007 to take up a post as Visiting Professor at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney. Will be lecturing and researching on subjects connected with theology and development studies.

**Mrs Claudia Nehmzow** MA 1992 Now in her fourth year as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Essex (teaching German full-time).

**Mrs Sophy Steine** MA 1992 Married and living near Oslo, Norway. Working in credit administration, after growing tired of the stressful deadlines involved in working as a translator.

**Dr Willy Spat** PhD 1992 EU Canoe Club members will be delighted to know that four-month-old Theo has already been on his first surf trip, and is now working on his rolls.

**Ms Nancy Beth Massaro** MSc 1992 Welcomed daughter Sophia Angeline DeBonte Massaro into this world on March 9, 2007.

**Miss Victoria Lissett** 1993 BDS Lives in Brisbane, Australia, with husband Nick Martin and baby daughter Ruth.

**Dr Elspeth Paterson** MB ChB 1993 Has worked for the past eight years as an obstetrician in a rural hospital in Pakistan.

**Mr Jason M Hirsch** MA 1994 First cookbook was published a couple years ago; now working on a second.

**Ms Evelyn Schultz (née Christensen)** BCom 1994 Busy married mother of one child, with three stepchildren. After living in Denmark for four years is moving back to Norway.

**Mrs Kate Duroux** MA 1995 Living and working in London. Her second daughter, Elise Angela, was born in April 2007.

**Mrs Vivienne Ravenhill (née Pratt)** BSc 1995 Married David Ravenhill in September 2006 and they are expecting their first child in January 2008.

**Ms Emma Goldberg** BSc 1996 Working at English Nature as a forestry and woodland officer.



**Dr Xavier Muhindo** MSc 1997 Working in the production department of Kasese District Local Government in Uganda.

**Mrs Clair Thunes (née Spackman)** BSc 1997 After doing an MSc in Animal Science at the University of California Davis, stayed and completed a PhD in Nutrition in 2005. Currently working as project manager at the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance (CADMS). Married to Owen.

**Ms Lucy Cooker** MSc (SS) 1998 Studying for a PhD at the University of Nottingham.

**Mrs Jenny Kemp** LLB 1998 Taking time out of work to run around after toddlers Rory and Elspeth.

**Dr Scott Cameron** BSc 1998 After completing a PhD in pharmacology at the University of Rochester, New York, and working at the Johns Hopkins Hospital as a staff clinical chemist and cardiovascular researcher in Baltimore, Maryland, is now studying medicine at the State University of New York (Upstate Medical University) in Syracuse, New York. Married Sarah in 2003, and daughter Katherine was born in 2006.

**Mr Alexander Conway** BEng 1998 Started management/IT consultancy company AJ Conway Consulting in 2006.

**Rev Nolan Tobias** MTh 1998 Currently Rector of All Saints Anglican Church in Bredasdorp, Africa.

**Miss Jennifer Hibben** MA 1999 Happily married to Glenn, with a little one on the way.

For all the latest Alumni news, visit:  
[www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk)

**Mr Jeremiah Goulka** LLB 1999 After Hurricane Katrina, left the practice of law to work in criminal justice recovery in New Orleans. Recently took up a criminal justice policy position at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica CA.

## 2000s

**Mr Charles de Segundo** MA 2001 In last year at business school in Boston and will probably be working outside New York from August 2008 onwards.

**Mr Christopher Wakely** BSc 2001 and **Mrs Catherine Wakely (née Lumb)** MEng 2004 Living in London, Christopher works as a mental health outreach worker for a charity and Catherine works for Arup as a building services engineer.

**Professor Michael R Davidson** PhD 2003 Has taken a position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of History at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

**Dr Premakumara De Silva** PhD 2005 Was awarded a visiting fellowship jointly funded by the British Academy and the Economic and Social Research Council.

**Miss Kai Deng** MSc 2005 Plans to relocate to London.

**Ms Yasmin Ishaq** MA 2006 Working in the Transfer Pricing and Investigation team in PwC.



**Miss Alexandra Hammond** MSc 2006 Full-time environmental adviser at Radisson SAS Hotel, Edinburgh, the only position of its kind in the UK.

**Mr Adam Stokes** BEng 2006 Currently studying for a Masters by Research in Biomedical Science.

**Mr Petros Sorokkos** MSc 2006 Works for a programme at the Public Employment Service of the Republic of Cyprus at the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



**Jennifer Barr**  
Junior Year Abroad 1988

**Jennifer is Executive Editor for US-based Travel & Leisure magazine, and previously worked for Vogue, Elle and Harper's Bazaar.**

I was an English major at Colby College, a small liberal arts college in Maine, US, that encourages students to go abroad for Junior Year. I chose Edinburgh because I wanted a place that was different, not London, and for literature it made sense.

I did an advanced literature programme and in tutorials I was really challenged to talk about literature in an argumentative way. In the US it was more about having an idea; in Edinburgh it was about debate and critical thought.

## “I HAVE SO MANY FOND MEMORIES.”

I have so many fond memories – Bannerman's pub, the song 'Edinburgh Skyline', the many friends I made, and the little red bicycle I bought at a police sale. It was wonderful to have the freedom to see a different city and to study at the same time.



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 (1934–1972). The Gallery is 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.

**Exhibition spaces**

The White Gallery is the main exhibition space at Talbot Rice; its scale and architecture provide an inspirational venue to view a changing programme of exhibitions. The round room is a unique architectural space, which links the White and Georgian galleries. Throughout the year the space offers installations and experimental projects in conjunction with the White Gallery programme. The permanent collection is on show in the Georgian Gallery, a fine room originally designed by William Playfair. The display consists of Old Master paintings, sculptures and Renaissance bronzes.

**Friends of the Talbot Rice Gallery**

By organising fundraising activities, Friends help support the Gallery. 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

**T:** 0131 650 2210

**E:** [subscribe.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk](mailto:subscribe.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk)

**W:** [www.trg.ed.ac.uk](http://www.trg.ed.ac.uk)

**Opening hours**

Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm,  
admission to all spaces is free.

## Exhibitions

**ALAN MICHAEL**

19 January–1 March 2008

A selection of new and existing works from this Glasgow-based painter. Born in Glasgow in 1967, Michael gained a BA in Fine Art from Duncan of Jordanstone College, Dundee, in 1996 and an MA (Fine Art) from Glasgow School of Art in 1998.

**ENRICO DAVID**

22 March–10 May 2008

The first major public exhibition by artist Enrico David. Touring from the ICA in London, this exhibition includes paintings, works on paper, sculptures and vitrines from the last five years, as well as two large-scale installations. David was born in Italy and lives and works in London.

**Image**

Alan Michael, *Decamp 2* acrylic on canvas, 2007. Courtesy of the artist and Sorcha Dallas



# Billet The General Council of the University of Edinburgh

**Report** By Alan Johnston, 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](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk).



It's progress report time again, and I'm pleased to be able to report good progress!

The General Council continues to take a very proactive interest in University affairs and receives regular updates on media coverage from the Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs. Coverage is very largely positive, and we offer our congratulations to those contributing to this. Occasionally, less positive issues arise, and in these cases our approach is to offer assistance, support and advice. We see this as a key role for our active General Council. A current example of this is the excellent news that our University is now rated in the top 25 in the world in a recent *Times Higher Education Supplement* analysis. At much the same time, the 2006 National Student Survey of student satisfaction indicated that we appeared to be doing less well in this respect than a number of comparator universities. The Secretary and I have very recently had our annual meeting with the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) President and Vice-Presidents; and our Academic Standing Committee will discuss this matter in more detail and report back to you.

As you will see from the details in the Annex to the Billet, our Standing Committees remain very active on a number of issues, and I am grateful

to the Officers, Conveners and Members for their diligence; and also for their input to many events associated with the University, such as graduations, student receptions, services, and the very successful Doors Open Day in September. Our most recent Statutory meeting in June 2007 was an excellent event, held in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Easter Bush, when we had an opportunity to hear from Professor Elaine Watson, the Head of School; and to see at first hand some of the outstanding work being undertaken within the School.

Looking ahead, 2008 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding by Statute in 1858 of the General Councils of the Ancient Scottish Universities (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews). Discussions on how best to mark this occasion are under way. Of course, a number of events are already planned for 2008. After our Statutory Meeting in Old College on Saturday 9 February, we are planning a new-style hot buffet lunch in the Playfair Library Hall, following which we will be delighted to hear from our invited speaker, well-known journalist and broadcaster Ms Sally Magnusson. A booking form for this can be found on page 37 of this magazine.

Following the success of our well attended Festival Reception and private viewing in the Talbot Rice Gallery last August, we plan to hold a similar event in August 2008, and details will be published in the summer 2008 issue of the *Billet*. As many members of General Council will be aware already, plans to take our Half-Yearly Meeting to Washington DC on Saturday 14 June 2008 are now well advanced. The General Council Meeting will be held at Georgetown University, and there is a strong associated programme of weekend events spanning Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June.

These include a business seminar on Climate Change, a reception in the British Embassy, a very special dinner and exhibition in the Library of Congress, and events in the National Cathedral. You will find full details, including the booking form, in the current *Billet*, and further information and updates will be posted on the General Council website ([www.general-council.ed.ac.uk](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk)), which you will see has been significantly upgraded recently.

I record my grateful thanks to Mr Fred Lawson, outgoing Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee, and to Business Committee members George Allen, William Bowie, Gavin Douglas and Anne Paterson, who completed their terms of office in 2007. Mr Ewan Jeffrey has been appointed Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee.

Mrs Jean Gibson, Assistant to the Secretary of General Council, retired from her post in 2007, and I am happy to record formally the thanks of the Officers and Business Committee to Mrs Gibson for her many years of excellent service to the General Council, which we marked with a presentation to her in the summer. Mrs Gibson's successor, Mrs Mary Scott, is already in post, and using her prior experience of University administration to good effect in providing support to the Secretary and Committees.

I am also pleased to welcome to the Business Committee Mr Gordon Cairns, Dr Alan Simpson, Dr Frank Stewart and Mrs Hilary Vandore, in addition to our two newly elected General Council University Court Assessors, Mr Douglas Connell and Professor Ann Smyth. I look forward to working with them all in my final year as Convener of the Business Committee, and to meeting many of you at one of our forthcoming events.

# Billet

## General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 9 February 2008

10.30am: Room G175, School of Law, Old College

**10am to 10.30am:** Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Lorimer Room, School of Law, Old College

**10.30am:** General Council Meeting in Room G175, School of Law, Old College

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

### AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

- 1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10
- Result of the Election of Members of the Business Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 16 June 2007 **(PAPER A)**

Matters arising

Report of the Business Committee

Motion **(PAPER B)**

Dates of future meetings of the General Council

Notice of forthcoming Elections

Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University

Any other competent business

Adjournment

### PAPER A

#### Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 16 June 2007

##### Present:

**Mr Mark Ballard**  
Chairman

**Mr Melvyn Cornish**  
University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council

**Dr Ann Matheson**  
Secretary of the General Council

**Mr Alan Johnston**  
Convener of the Business Committee

**45 other members**

**The Rev. Di Williams**  
Chaplain to the University opened the meeting with prayer.

1.

2.

3.
- Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Edinburgh on 3 February 2007

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 February 2007 were approved.

Matters arising

The Convener confirmed that the location of meetings would be included in the Minutes. The matter relating to glass floors in the refurbished University Library design had been resolved since the final designs did not include this feature.

Report of the Business Committee

Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee, presented his report on the activities of the Business Committee and its Standing Committees since the last meeting.

The reports of the Standing Committees were available in the Annex to the Billet. The Business Committee had received presentations from the EUSA Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Mr Ross Neilson, on the ambitious plans for the redevelopment of Teviot House and the Pleasance Theatre; and from Mr Young Dawkins, Vice-Principal for Development, on the University of Edinburgh Campaign, including details of successful events recently held in China and the United States. The Convener noted that the withdrawal of the Honorary Degree awarded by the University to President Robert Mugabe in 1984 had been raised at the previous Half-Yearly Meeting by a member of Council, Mr Malcolm Errington. The matter had been remitted to the Business Committee for more detailed consideration, and would be reported on under item 4 of the Agenda.

The Business Committee continued to play a

full part in representing the General Council at pre-graduation receptions and graduations, as well as at other University and City events. A very successful private viewing of the Festival Exhibition in the Talbot Rice Gallery, followed by a Reception in the Georgian Gallery, had been held for members and guests on 16 August.

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 9 February 2008, when the after-Lunch speaker would be Ms Sally Magnusson, journalist and broadcaster. The following meeting would be held in Washington DC, USA, on Saturday 14 June 2008. Full details of the meeting, and the associated weekend events, would be published in the winter 2008 issue of *Edit*, and would also be available on the General Council website. It was hoped to welcome as many members and their guests as possible to the Washington DC events.

The Convener thanked Business Committee colleagues, the Standing Committee Conveners, and fellow officers, Vice-Convener Mr Neil Hynd, and Secretary of Council Dr Ann Matheson, for their commitment. Gratitude was also expressed to Mrs Jean Gibson, who was retiring after nine years of service as Assistant to the Secretary of General Council. The Convener thanked Mrs Gibson on behalf of General Council for her sterling work over the years, and wished her well. He also welcomed Mrs Mary Scott, the newly appointed Assistant to the Secretary.

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.*

#### 4. Motion

The Chairman invited the Convener to present the Motion. The Convener reported that the issue to which the Motion related had evolved quickly since the last meeting in February. The Senate had appointed a group

of three senior professors to advise the Honorary Degrees Committee, and through that body the Senate, on whether within the policy adopted for the withdrawal of honorary degrees, there were grounds for the withdrawal of this degree. The University Secretary was invited to comment, and he noted that having examined the evidence that had not been available to the University at the time at which the degree had been conferred, the group had reported to the Senate that such grounds existed, and the degree had consequently been withdrawn and the holder had been informed. Mr Malcolm Errington was invited to comment, and he said that in the light of the University's decision, and the assurances given, he was content to withdraw his Motion.

#### 5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council would take place in Old College on Saturday 9 February 2008: any motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 21 November 2007. The following meeting of the General Council would take place in Washington DC, USA, on Saturday 14 June 2008: any motions for this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 26 March 2008.

#### 6. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There would be elections for five members of the Business Committee in February 2008: nominations on forms available from the General Council Office should be received in the General Council Office by 21 November 2007.

#### 7. Presentation by Professor John Savill, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Professor Savill began by saying that he came to the Chair of Medicine at the University in 1998, and in 2002, he began setting up a new College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine consisting of four

schools: the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies; and the Schools of Biomedical Sciences, Clinical Sciences & Community Health, and Molecular & Clinical Medicine, which together constitute the Medical School. In a sense, the schools structure did not work for this College because research and teaching spanned all the College's sites and all its Schools, and one could refer to 'one medicine for humans and animals'. There were also four crosscutting Directorates: research and knowledge transfer; undergraduate learning and teaching; postgraduate studies and international relations; and quality assurance. The College received about 230 medical students per year; and the Veterinary School was undergoing a major expansion with 180 new admissions every year. Although the College was research-led, teaching undergraduates was also very important, and external perceptions backed this up. In the *Guardian* tables this year, Medicine & Veterinary Medicine had come second, and Professor Savill said that he was confident that the University would have the best Vet School in the world. The College had also been recently awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for the Virtual Hospital Online.

Professor Savill noted that postgraduate teaching and training was now a very major area of College development, and there were now over 1,100 students registered for higher degrees. Increasingly, the College was running postgraduate teaching, especially with continuous professional development in mind, and this year it had set up the University's first online distance learning unit. In alliance with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, an online Masters in Surgical Sciences was to be introduced that might well become the worldwide proving ground for those who wanted to get into surgical training programmes.

The College's research was very well rated, and nearly 2,000 staff were currently engaged on research. In terms of Medical Research Council awards, Edinburgh had tied second with Cambridge for new awards

# Billet

in 2005; and the College’s research awards had grown very rapidly from around £30 million to a record £53 million the previous year. Professor Savill noted that the College had swept away traditional departments in research and now concentrated on inter-disciplinarity, bringing surgeons, obstetricians, physicians, molecular biologists and radiologists together around themes such as reproduction, cancer or infectious disease. The Queen’s Medical Research Institute had opened two years ago, and a new collaboration with the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK would form an Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine at the Western General Hospital with over 500 researchers. The Queen’s Medical Research Institute at Little France had been totally funded from external sources, and was operating very successfully since its opening two years ago.

Edinburgh Neuroscience brought together a number of very exciting initiatives. It was increasingly important to recognise that by contrast with clinical medical schools in England, the four clinical medical schools in Scotland had realised that schools must work together to achieve the greatest impact in research and the most rapid translation into patient benefit. The NHS in Scotland had remarkable power in information technology, and it had also solved the key problem of giving patients a unique identifier. This power could be harnessed for clinical research projects, particularly genetics projects such as Generation Scotland, which was a £6 million bid to understand the genetic basis of common Scottish diseases, led by Professor David Porteous. Professor Joanna Wardlaw had realised that it could also be used to improve brain-imaging studies, and this had led to a £7 million initiative called SINAPSE (Scottish Imaging Network – A Platform for Scientific Excellence), which would deliver a single clinical laboratory for brain imaging across Scotland. Another major development was the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, led by Professor Ian Wilmot, for which major commitments of funding from key Scottish agencies had

been obtained. There was also a new Centre for Infectious Diseases being planned which would be sited at The King’s Buildings, in order to bring together experts in immunology, infection and evolution because infectious diseases evolution was both the problem and the solution.

A very new piece of information was that within the last month, Scottish Enterprise had attracted the US world leading developer in biotechnology, Alexandria, to lead the development of Edinburgh BioQuarter. Professor Savill demonstrated a model of Little France showing how it would look in 15 years’ time, and noted that it would be a unique development in Europe, which had already attracted enormous attention. There was also tremendous potential to develop a similar research cluster for animal health at Easter Bush. Professor Savill concluded his presentation by emphasising that if credit was due, it was due to colleagues across the College, across the University.

*A full text of Professor Savill’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

No matters were raised.

## 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.

The Rev. Di Williams 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 16 June 2007. General Council members may either collect the Annex from half an hour before the Council meeting or request it by post from: Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel: 0131 650 2152. Email: General.Council@ed.ac.uk.*

## PAPER B Motion

In line with Ordinance No. 198, amended by Ordinance No. 205, the ‘Constitutional Arrangements for the working of the University of Edinburgh General Council and its Business Committee’ (latest version, March 2005) make provision for Regulations covering the conduct of General Council Elections. The Business Committee on the advice of the Constitutional Standing Committee has agreed to recommend to the General Council that the after-mentioned proposed Regulations as published on the General Council website to govern the conduct of General Council Elections for General Council Assessors to the University Court and members of the Business Committee be approved. The relevant procedures so far as they relate to General Council Assessors and members of the Business Committee are respectively detailed in Parts I and II of these Regulations; and Part III details procedures that apply to both.

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

*The full text of the proposed Regulations is available on the General Council website at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/DraftRegulationsOctober2007.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/DraftRegulationsOctober2007.htm). Printed copies are also available on request from the General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, at Reception in Charles Stewart House and Old College, and copies will be available at the Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 9 February 2008.*

## Postal Election

Candidates for Postal Election of Members of the Business Committee

The following nominations have been received for the election of five members of the Business Committee to serve until 31 July 2012.

**Professor Ronald E. Asher**  
BA, PhD, DLitt 1992

*Proposed by Dr Frances Diana Dow, MA 1969, DPhil*  
*Seconded by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989*

I believe that the knowledge and experience gained as a member of the academic staff of the University from 1965–1993, including time spent as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and later as Vice-Principal, would make it possible for me to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Business Committee.

**Mr Michael Christopher Conway**  
MA 1986

*Proposed by Mr Peter Bruce Freshwater, MA 1964, MCLIP, FSA Scot*  
*Seconded by Dr Patrick Maitland-Cullen, BD 1985, PhD 1990, DipLIS, MCLIP, MIPR*

I served my apprenticeship on the Business Committee between 2002–2006, and would like to use this experience to further your interests and views. As a writer and journalist, and former secretary of EUSA, I especially hope to help in fundraising. Any questions or comments to: [michrisconway@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michrisconway@yahoo.co.uk).

**Ms Doreen Davidson**  
BA 1977

*Proposed by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989*  
*Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969*

My career began at Holmes McDougall. After working abroad, I returned as Head, Personnel and Training, then Company Secretary at Inveresk Research (now Vice president, Charles River Laboratories). I hope that my extensive international management experience, in Human Resources, Training and Development, can now prove a useful contribution to my University.

**Mr Jordan Robert Jude Dias**  
MA (Hons) 2007

*Proposed by Mr Steven John Hill, BSc 2000*  
*Seconded by Ms Anna Davidson, MA (Hons) 2007*

As a recent graduate, I am able to bring a fresh and innovative business based perspective to the work of the Business Committee. I have been involved in the work of the University previously, and feel I am well placed to represent the views of Graduates in the Committee’s efforts.

**Ms Moira Elizabeth Helen Gibson**  
MA (Hons) 1975

*Proposed by Professor Leonard Raymond Land MA (Hons) 1973*  
*Seconded by Ms Adeline Christy, LLB (Hons) 1975*

I have held senior positions in advertising, marketing and tourism, working across the UK, Europe and the USA. I have wide experience of the Scottish political scene and, before starting my PR consultancy, was the Scottish Arts Council’s Head of External Relations. I would be honoured to serve the University.

**Mrs Mary Myles McGregor**  
MA 1962 PGCE

*Proposed by Mr James Murray, BSc 1962, MS CEng MIEE MIHT*  
*Seconded by Dr Ronald David Lessels Mackie, BSc 1959, PhD 1969*

Career: Bookkeeper; Chief Accountant (six companies turnover £25 million) in Zambia and UK. Education Officer – Kaduna, Nigeria. Teacher – UK. Broad palette of skills – economist/accountant/educator. Interested in funding; academic excellence; value for money; securing merited share of the academic pie by providing all round quality of experience and knowing competition.

**Mr Bruce Landale Keith Rae**  
LLB 1967

*Proposed by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969*  
*Seconded by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989*

Forty years legal experience, private practice, and with Scottish and Southern Energy plc (originally North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board). Nearly twenty years Chairman of Douglas Crescent Gardens Association. On Congregational Board of Palmerston Place Church. Experience in handling (and getting on with!) members of all society levels.

## The February 2008 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 9 February 2008 in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College. Ms Sally Magnusson, journalist and broadcaster, will give the after-Lunch address.

If you would like to attend the next General Council Lunch, please complete and return the form on page 37 of this magazine no later than Monday 28 January 2008.

Tickets at £16 include pre-lunch wine reception and a buffet lunch in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available for purchase at the meal.



Sally Magnusson

## 150th Anniversary of the General Council in 2008

The year 2008 will be the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the General Councils of the four Ancient Universities of Scotland. It is proposed to present the University with a permanent token to mark this milestone for the General Council of the University of Edinburgh by commissioning a sculpture to be placed in one of the University’s new buildings. Further information and progress with the commission will be made available regularly on the General Council website, and in future issues of the *Billet* within *Edit*.

Members of the General Council are warmly invited to contribute to the Fund to mark the

long association between the Council and the University. Please send your contribution to:

**General Council 150th Anniversary Fund  
The General Council Office  
The University of Edinburgh  
Charles Stewart House  
9-16 Chambers Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1HT**

Cheques should be made payable to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust. Contributions to the Fund will be accepted until 30 June 2008.

## Half-Yearly Meeting at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine, Easter Bush on Saturday 16 June 2007



**Before the General Council Lunch, left to right:** Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; Professor John Savill, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies; Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council; and Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee.

## Officers

Chairman:	His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT	
Secretary:	Ann Matheson, OBE, MA, Dip. Scottish Studies, MLitt, PhD, Hon DLitt	2009
Registrar:	Melvyn D Cornish, BSc, PGCE, University Secretary	ex-officio

<b>General Council Assessors on the University Court:</b>	
A Margaret Tait, BSc	2009
Douglas A Connell, LLB	2010
Ann M Smyth, BSc, PhD, MPhil	2010

<b>Business Committee:</b>	
Convener: Alan M Johnston, MBA, CSci, CChem, FRSC, CBiol, FIBiol	2008
Vice-Convener: Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch	2008

<b>A</b>	Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Frances D Dow, MA, DPhil	2008
<b>F</b>	Convener of Standing Committee on Finance and Services: J Ewan Jeffrey, BSc, CA	2009
<b>P</b>	Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Marjorie D Appleton, BArch (Hons), RIBA, FRIAS	2009
<b>C</b>	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 Standing Committee on Finance and Services, 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
<b>P</b>	Charles F Y Lawson, BSc, CA, FSI	2008
<b>C</b>	Patricia J Spark, MA	2008
<b>P</b>	Diana C F Webster, MA, Dip Lib, MCLIP	2008
<b>A</b>	Ian Wotherspoon, MA, MBA, PhD, FSA (Scot), MCMi	2008
<b>P</b>	Alan D G Brown, MB ChB, FRCOG, FRCS Ed	2009
<b>C</b>	Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartS	2009
<b>A</b>	Charles P Swainson, MB ChB, FRCPE, FFPHM	2009
<b>C</b>	Francis R M Brewis, MA	2010
<b>A</b>	Helen M Campbell, MA, BA, MNCHM, RSHom, BSc Open	2010
<b>F</b>	T Finlay Marshall, MA, FFA	2010
<b>P</b>	Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD	2010
<b>F</b>	James Murray, BSc, MS, MIEE, MIHT	2010
<b>C</b>	Gordon D Cairns, LLB	2011
<b>A</b>	Alan D Simpson, BSc, PhD	2011
<b>F</b>	Frank I Stewart, MB ChB	2011
<b>F</b>	Hilary A Vandore, MA	2011

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary Scott

## June 2008 General Council Meeting, and Alumni Events, in Washington DC, USA



The Jefferson Building, Library of Congress

The General Council will hold its June 2008 Meeting in its 150th anniversary year in Georgetown University, Washington DC, on Saturday 14 June 2008. A full programme of alumni events and activities has been planned in association with the University's Development & Alumni for the weekend of 13 to 15 June 2008, including opportunities for socialising, networking, discussion and debate, with privileged access to some of the most prestigious venues the city has to offer. For those who wish to explore more of the cultural and architectural gems of Washington at their leisure, a wide range of guided and self-guided tours of interest will also be available. The programme of events is set out here, and is also available on the General Council ([www.general-council.ed.ac.uk](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk)) and Development & Alumni ([www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk)) websites. Tickets for events may be ordered on the request form opposite, or online at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm).



Founder of Georgetown University, Healy Building

**All General Council members are most warmly invited to come to Washington for the General Council's first visit to North America, and to bring their friends to the associated weekend events.**



The Rt Hon. Lord Gill

### The June 2008 General Council Lunch

The General Council is delighted to welcome the Rt Hon. Lord Gill as the Guest Speaker at the Washington DC Lunch on Saturday 14 June 2008. Lord Gill was appointed Lord Justice Clerk and President of the Court of Session in 1994. He was Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission from 1994 to 2001. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

### Washington DC Weekend Programme of Events

#### Friday 13 June 2008

**Morning** Optional tours of Capitol Hill and other Washington landmarks  
Tour of the White House (20 only)

**2pm–5pm** Business Seminar:  
'Climate Change'  
The British Embassy  
3100 Massachusetts Avenue

**6pm–8pm** Reception  
The British Embassy

#### Saturday 14 June 2008

**9.30am** Coffee  
South Lobby, Georgetown University  
Conference Center

**10am–noon**  
General Council Half-Yearly Meeting  
Grand Ballroom

**12.15pm–12.45pm** Wine Reception hosted by the President of Georgetown University  
Copley Formal Lounge

**12.45pm–2.45pm** General Council Lunch  
Copley Formal Lounge  
Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon. Lord Gill MA LLB  
PhD FRSE FRSAMD, Lord Justice Clerk

**3pm–5pm** Optional tours of Georgetown University Campus, guided by Georgetown University students  
Free time

**7pm** Champagne Reception and Gala Dinner  
Jefferson Building, Library of Congress  
With a specially arranged exhibition from the collections of Library of Congress  
Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Foreign Secretary 1995–97

#### Sunday 15 June 2008

**Morning** Events in the National Cathedral  
**10am** Sunday Forum  
**10.50am** Coffee  
**11.15am–12.30pm** Morning Service  
Free time

**2pm** Optional tours of Washington DC  
Guided visit to Holocaust Museum led by Professor Donald Bloxham, School of History, University of Edinburgh

## The February 2008 General Council Lunch

Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on Saturday 9 February 2008, 12.30pm for 1pm.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the General Council Lunch.

A cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, payable to The University of Edinburgh.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form to Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT **Closing date for applications: Monday 28 January 2008**

## The June 2008 General Council Meeting, Lunch and Alumni Events

Washington DC: Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June 2008

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(a) I/We wish to attend the Half-Yearly Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

(b) I/We would like to buy the following ticket/s

No. of Tickets

Total Cost

White House tour (no charge)

(Please note that there is a limit of two requests for this tour: places will be allocated by ballot)

n/a

'Climate Change' Business Seminar (£60 per person, including Reception)

n/a

Reception (no charge)

n/a

General Council Lunch (£30 per person)

Georgetown University Campus tour (no charge)

Gala Dinner (£75 per person)

n/a

Holocaust Museum (no charge)

Total

(c) Guest Names

Event(s) Attending

Any Dietary Requirements

(d) Ordering Tickets

You will find an order form at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm), which you can complete online using credit card facilities. Conversion at prevailing rates.

or/ You may enclose your cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (in total) payable to the University of Edinburgh.

Please complete and return this form to: Development & Alumni, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. **Closing date for applications: 15 May 2008**



## *The* CLUB WITH AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION



### **Royal Over-Seas League**

*Special membership  
rates for Edinburgh  
University alumni*



**The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) has a long history of welcoming members from the UK and overseas to its London and Edinburgh clubhouses and providing a network of reciprocal clubs, branches or honorary representatives around the world.**



The London clubhouse, comprising two period houses, is in a prime location bordering Green Park and near the Ritz Hotel. Over-Seas House has a private garden, al fresco dining, restaurant, buttry for light meals, bar, drawing room, 80 bedrooms and seven conference and private dining rooms. The Edinburgh clubhouse is centrally situated at 100 Princes Street.



Benefits of membership include economical central London pricing\*, varied events programmes, inter-club younger members group, quarterly journal, discounts on certain cruises and tours, in-house art exhibitions and concerts, evening speakers and short term access to over 90 other clubs around the world in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, Gibraltar, Spain, USA and elsewhere.



Specially discounted joining fees for *Edinburgh University* alumni range from £27 (resident overseas) to £62 (resident within 50 miles of Charing Cross, London). Discounted 2008 subscriptions range from £78 to £245. The joining fee is waived for those aged 17-25.

For further information please contact the Membership Department, remembering to quote EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Tel: 020 7408 0214 Fax: 020 7499 6738

(Enquiries: 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday - exts. 214 and 216)

Website: [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) E-mail: [info@rosl.org.uk](mailto:info@rosl.org.uk)