



The University  
of Edinburgh

WINTER 09

# edit

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE INCLUDING BILLET & GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

## Alumnus of the Year 2008

Author Philippa Gregory  
returns to Edinburgh

### ALSO INSIDE

*Edit* investigates the  
impact of the global Scot



## The University of Edinburgh



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## Foreword

New Year is a time of resolutions and reflections, and in this edition we report on the University of Edinburgh General Council's historic 150-year anniversary meeting in Washington DC (pages 8, 16).

We also preview Homecoming Scotland 2009, a year-long campaign to reconnect the Scottish emigrant population to their homeland (page 12), and put the spotlight on the University's achievements over the past academic year in "Review of the Year" (page 14). For a more detailed account, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/annual\\_review](http://www.ed.ac.uk/annual_review).

Also in this edition, two former students reminisce over their time at university in our new "My Edinburgh" feature (page 22), and we join Professor Colin Nicholson in conversation with Alumnus of the Year 2008, author Philippa Gregory (page 10).

With best wishes for the New Year.

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

*Voting Papers for the election of the General Council's Assessor and Members of the Business Committee are enclosed.*

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2006

# University News



## HRH The Princess Royal marks beginning of £42 million Vet School development

HRH The Princess Royal officially marked the start of work on the University's multi-million pound development at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, in a recent tree-planting ceremony.

The Princess Royal, who is the School's Patron, planted the tree at the Easter Bush site, which is to be transformed over the next five years with work that will include a new £42 million building to house the Vet School.

The three-storey building for some 1,200 students and staff will contain state-of-the-art lecture theatres, seminar rooms and laboratories, and will be located alongside the Hospital for Small Animals, aiding practical teaching.

It will form part of a wider £100 million development on the site, which will include a new research building for the Roslin Institute and a £3 million cancer

centre equipped with scanners for animals and radiotherapy equipment.

A 10-year plan is also underway to rebuild the Hospital for Large Animals, and relocate it alongside the Hospital for Small Animals.

Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, said: "We are delighted that HRH The Princess Royal has been able to mark this chapter in the School's history. This is an exceptionally exciting time for the School, with the new building and developments on the Easter Bush site keeping us at the forefront of veterinary medicine in both teaching and research."



HRH The Princess Royal inspects plans for the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

## New Centre for Islamic Studies

The University of Edinburgh, the University of Cambridge, and HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of Kingdom Foundation, have announced plans to create two new research centres for Islamic studies.

Funded by a £16 million endowment by Prince Alwaleed, which will be shared equally by the two universities, the new centres will aim to carry out both research and public engagement designed to enhance understanding between the Muslim world and the West.

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, based at Edinburgh, aims to improve public knowledge and awareness of Islamic civilisation and of Muslims in

Britain. It will do so partly through educational outreach to policy-makers, students and the public.

Professor Carole Hillenbrand, Head of the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Edinburgh, said: "The Centre will ensure Edinburgh's place as a world-class resource for expertise on Islam in the modern world, with the twin emphases of its programme on both the past and the present, and on how they reinforce and illuminate each other."

The University of Edinburgh was recently placed top in the UK for research on Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and has one of the largest concentrations of expertise in Britain in this area.

## Principal takes up key JISC role

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal of the University, is to lead the body that encourages innovative use of information technologies in universities.

He is to succeed Professor Sir Ron Cooke as the new chair of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) from 1 January 2009.

JISC supports a range of information and communication technologies that support learning, teaching and research in the UK. It is best known for providing JANET – a high-speed computer network for academics – as well as offering a portfolio of high-quality resources.

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

## State-of-the-art Informatics Forum is officially opened

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond opened the University's Informatics Forum in an official ceremony.

The Forum brings together scientists whose interests span virtual reality, robotics, artificial learning, intelligent systems, computational linguistics and bioinformatics.

Built over six floors around a central glass atrium, the 12,000m<sup>2</sup> Forum has an open design to encourage interaction and collaboration between researchers.

This is intended to promote world-class research and underline the School's reputation for commercialisation.

The Forum was designed by Bennetts Associates Architects, and won the RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award 2008, the UK's richest architecture prize.

The First Minister formally opened the Forum by switching on a digital donor board, on which the names of



The open design encourages interaction and collaboration between researchers

fundraising donors are illuminated in binary code. He also inspected notable aspects of the building, such as its floating staircases and outdoor terraces.

"This new Centre of Excellence will advance Scotland and the University of Edinburgh's position as a world leader in the new science of informatics and it will also have enormous benefits to both industry and commerce," he said.

## Edinburgh ranks among world's best

The University has, for the second year running, been listed in the top 25 universities in the world.

The Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings place Edinburgh 23rd, in the same position it achieved last year.

Now in their fifth year, the rankings list the top 200 universities in the world. Edinburgh is the only Scottish university and one of only six British institutions to appear in the top 25.

"It is extremely gratifying to have held our position in the top 25 for the second year running against so many top-quality institutions from around the world," said University Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea. "Indeed it is great to see all four of Scotland's ancient universities ranked in the world's top 200."

## Two new awards for University

The University has launched two major awards to recognise significant achievements by staff and students.

The Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science is open to all current staff and is named in honour of former MP and University Rector Tam Dalyell.

The inaugural winner is Professor Sergio Della Sala, of the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences.

The second award, the Principal's Medal, will be awarded to the individual or group (students or staff) that has made a significant contribution to support or benefit the wider community.

## Visitor Centre showcases talent



The new Visitor Centre includes a shop, exhibition space and information centre

The University's new Visitor Centre, which includes a shop, exhibition space and information centre, has opened.

Part of the University's multi-million pound Potterrow development, the Centre stocks around 400 lines of University merchandise, including items in the new tartan.

It is based on Charles Street and will be open from 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. It replaces the former Nicolson Street shop and information centre.

# University News



The Prime Minister Gordon Brown, his wife Sarah, Olympian Chris Hoy and University Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, were among guests at the Beijing reception

## A warm welcome for our alumni heroes

Thousands of Edinburgh's residents and visitors lined the city's Royal Mile to welcome University of Edinburgh alumni Chris Hoy and Katherine Grainger, and other Scottish medallists, back to Scotland, after their outstanding contribution to Team GB's medal success at the Beijing Olympic Games.

Following a reception at Edinburgh Castle, the athletes paraded down the famous thoroughfare in an open-topped bus. Chris Hoy, 32, has been elevated to national hero status after winning an astonishing three gold medals at the Games, making him Scotland's most successful Olympian, and only the second Briton to win gold three times at the same Olympics.

The University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, said: "Since graduating from Edinburgh in 1999, Chris Hoy has been an excellent ambassador for the University, and the whole University community is thrilled by his world-beating performances in Beijing."

The Principal had the opportunity to meet the University's Olympic representatives at a special reception hosted by the University in Beijing. Hoy,

rowing silver medallist Katherine Grainger and Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife, Sarah, were among the guests in attendance.

The Principal commented: "It was wonderful to meet Chris Hoy again at this event, which was a celebration of our strong sporting traditions and our long-standing links with China. He, Katherine Grainger and others are continuing the story of Olympic success."

Other University of Edinburgh students and alumni who competed at Beijing included hockey players Stephen Dick and Alistair McGregor and judo squad member Euan Burton.



Olympic heroes Chris Hoy and Katherine Grainger thank their fans in Edinburgh

## Sports Hall of Fame will be home fit for "legends"

Three distinguished Olympians and a Scottish rugby legend are the first sporting heroes to be inducted into the University of Edinburgh's Sports Hall of Fame.

Iconic athlete Eric Liddell, star hockey player Alison Ramsay, world champion rower Katherine Grainger and rugby great Andy Irvine were honoured at a ceremony at the University's Old College to launch the new venture.

Photographs of the four Edinburgh graduates will now adorn the walls of the University's Centre for Sport and Exercise and act as an inspiration to the current generation of students.

## Peffermill to be Olympics training camp

The University's Peffermill sports ground has been selected as one of the official pre-Games hockey training camps for the 2012 Olympics in London. The facility will be included in the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games's training camp prospectus, which was circulated to all countries who competed at the 2008 Beijing Games.

In addition, the University was recently announced as the host for the 2010 World Universities Championships for Hockey, where the world's top eight men's and women's national teams will compete.

The University is the first in Scotland, and the first higher education institution in 20 years, to host an event of this scale.

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

## Chancellor honours innovators

University Chancellor, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has presented awards to three members of University staff.

The Chancellor's Awards, now in their fourth year and presented in recognition of innovation, relevance, creativity and personal dedication, were made in front of some 200 supporters of the University at Edinburgh's Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Professor Joanna Wardlaw, Head of the University's Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences, was presented with an award in recognition of her internationally recognised research. Professor Wardlaw is an outstanding researcher in the field of brain imaging, who is responsible for significant advances in the discipline.

Dr Siân Bayne, of the School of Education, was honoured for her innovative work in teaching. Dr Bayne became a senior lecturer in 2005 and has since been responsible for



HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, congratulates Dr Polly Arnold

developing an online Masters programme in e-learning.

Dr Polly Arnold, of the School of Chemistry, who is building a growing reputation for her research into heavy metals, received the Rising Star award. Dr Arnold is recognised as one of Britain's most creative synthetic chemists.

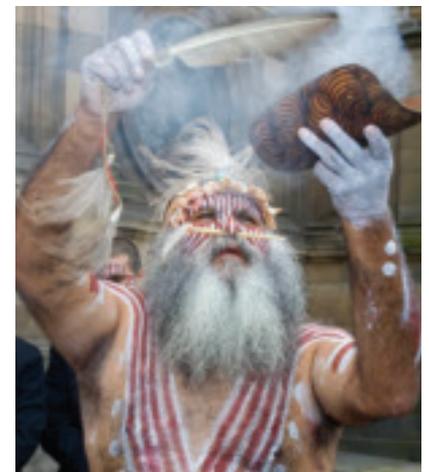
## Aboriginal cleansing ritual marks handover of remains

Australian Aborigines wearing traditional dress carried out a cleansing ritual at the University to mark the return of human remains to their homeland.

The ritual involved the burning of eucalyptus leaves in front of the McEwan Hall, honouring the completion of a decade-long process that has seen remains held in the University's collection returned to Aboriginal peoples.

Dr John Scally, Director of the University of Edinburgh Collections, said the handover completed an important process: "Over the past decade we have been returning human remains to the Aboriginal cultures from which they came."

He said the remains were acquired by the University more than 100 years ago, and added: "Times have changed dramatically since we were given these remains, but we are happy that through returning them we are able to build a new relationship with the indigenous people of Australia."



An Australian Aborigine marked the handover with a cleansing ritual

## Winners announced

Two lesser known writers have joined the ranks of literary giants by winning the University's annual literary awards, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes.

Rosalind Belben is winner of the fiction prize for her acclaimed novel, *Our Horses in Egypt*, while the recipient of the biography prize is Rosemary Hill for her first book, *God's Architect: Pugin and the Building of Romantic Britain*.

Established in 1919, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes are Britain's oldest literary awards and the only awards of their kind to be presented by a university. The latest awards were announced live at a special ceremony during the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

## New Director of Development to build on successes

A fundraiser with a notable track record of success in both the UK and the US has joined the University of Edinburgh in the position of Director of Development.

Liesl Elder, former Director of Development and Communications at Durham University, took up her new post at Edinburgh in September.

The University of Edinburgh's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, welcomed the appointment.

"We are delighted to attract an individual of Liesl's abilities to the University of Edinburgh," he said. "I am confident that she will continue to build on the current success of fundraising at Edinburgh."



The University study has helped us understand how avalanches occur

## Avalanche study pinpoints skiing dangers

New insights into the process that triggers slab avalanches may be used to help predict potential snow hazards.

Slab avalanches are often triggered by skiers and account for many skiing accidents.

Scientists from the University's Centre for Materials Science and Engineering have proposed that the main cause of slab avalanches could be fractures under the surface.

These fractures, known as anticracks, cause a layer of snow to crumble inwardly like a house of cards.

It was previously thought that slab avalanches were caused by shear cracks, when a layer of snow slides off another.

Anticracks have been found to cause fractures over large distances. They can spread on gentle slopes and on the flat.

"Our discoveries complete a piece of the puzzle of how avalanches occur. We hope this will help to pinpoint dangerous tell-tale signs and so avoid unnecessary dangers to people on mountains," said Joachim Heierli, a physicist at the Centre.

## Staff and students scoop international awards

University students and staff have been honoured for their dedication and expertise by winning a swathe of internationally recognised prizes and scholarships. Here, *Edit* highlights just a few recent achievements.

• **Professor David Leigh**, from the School of Chemistry, heads a group that has been awarded a share of the biggest research prize in Europe.

His team is one of three winners of the £1.1 million Descartes Prize, which is given annually to outstanding international scientific research teams. The collaboration, involving researchers in Italy, France and the Netherlands, has been honoured for its work on nanomachines.

• **Dr Oliver Maddocks**, 28, won the Fulbright-AstraZeneca Research Scholarship, one of the most prestigious worldwide awards programmes, which is given annually to a post-doctoral scientist who wishes to carry out scientific research in the USA.

Dr Maddocks recently completed a PhD in the molecular genetics of colorectal cancer at the Institute of Genetics and

Molecular Medicine and will now work for a year at the University of Maryland.

• **Professor Adrian Bird**, Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology, is the 2008 recipient of the international Charles Leopold Mayer Prize from the French Academy of Sciences, for his work in biology.

Previous winners include Francis Crick, who discovered the structure of DNA, and Barbara McClintock, a genetics pioneer and winner of a Nobel Prize for medicine.

• **Professor Sir Ian Wilmut** and **Professor Keith Campbell**, Dolly the sheep's creators, have been awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize, known as the Nobel Prize of the East.

The pair were awarded the life science and medical prize, which they will share with professor Shinya Yamanaka for their work in stem cell research.

The Shaw Prize is an international award to honour individuals who are currently active in their respective fields and who have achieved distinguished and significant advances.

## Astronomers focus on MRI scans

Brain scan patients could have faster diagnosis and avoid repeat appointments, with a technique developed by astronomers and clinicians at the University.

The scientists have adapted an algorithm designed to process data from studies of distant galaxies for use in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanning.

"We estimate that in two or three years this technology, derived from pure astronomy research, will be bringing benefits to patients," said Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics, Alan Heavens.

MRI scanning can record images of parts of the body from several angles and is used to examine organs or tissue. Patients having scans may have to lie still for 30 minutes or more, while the scanner records successive layered images of their body. If the patient moves, the images become distorted.

The astronomy algorithm corrects distortions, making the technique especially suited to use with children or seriously ill patients. It also avoids patients having to undergo repeat scans to get accurate results.

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

# Heart attack risk is underestimated: study

The risk of heart attack patients having repeat heart problems after they are discharged is being underestimated, a University of Edinburgh study shows.

The international study, looking at data from 46,000 heart attack patients across 14 countries, raises concerns that some patients may not be receiving the best medical treatment because doctors are misjudging the risk of a further heart attack.

Researchers looked at whether patients were originally admitted with a “full” heart attack – where the artery was completely blocked – or an “incomplete” heart attack – where there was only partial blockage of the artery. “Full” heart attack patients had the most likelihood of another heart attack or death within the first 15 days after they were first admitted. However, the risk for patients whose heart attack was originally considered not as severe (where the artery was not completely blocked) overtook the full heart attack group after 26 days.



The University study looked at data from heart attack patients from 14 countries

Professor Keith Fox, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiology at the University, led the study, and said: “Two-thirds of adverse events after a heart attack – which may be a further heart attack, stroke or major bleed – happen after a patient has been discharged from hospital. Our findings are of concern because we believe that the risk for patients whose heart attack was originally considered not as severe may be being misjudged.”

# New Centre of Excellence for brain research is opened

A new Centre of Excellence to advance research into how ageing affects mental capabilities has been officially opened at the University. The Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology will bring together the work of scholars in psychology and medical science.

The Centre will enhance Edinburgh’s international reputation in understanding the effects of ageing on functions of the brain, such as memory, decision making and intelligence. Research will also investigate brain structure as revealed

by brain imaging, and the impact of mental abilities, genes and hormones on lifelong health and wellbeing.

“The creation of this new multidisciplinary centre is a major encouragement for our research into the effects of cognition on ageing, and vice versa,” said Director, Professor Ian Deary. “It will go a long way towards bringing together our exciting current work, and create opportunities for new collaborations within and beyond the University.”

## RESEARCH NEWS IN BRIEF

### Liver cells discovery

Stem cell scientists have overcome a key hurdle in developing a source of liver and pancreatic cells in the laboratory. Experts at the University have developed embryonic stem cells to the stage where they can both replicate themselves and become only cells associated with the gut, such as liver and pancreas. Previously, scientists working to produce these cells developed complex mixtures of specialised cells.

### Male infertility clues

Infertility in men may be determined before they are born, according to researchers at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Human Reproductive Sciences Unit, at the University. A study has identified a time window between eight and twelve weeks of fetal development during which reproductive problems, including low sperm count, are determined.

### Cancer drugs breakthrough

Costly drugs for illnesses such as cancer and arthritis could be made more cheaply with a method developed by University researchers. The scientists have pioneered a simple way to remove dead cells from cell cultures used to make protein-based drugs, which are increasingly prescribed to treat a range of illnesses but are expensive. The high costs result from the time-consuming and labour-intensive nature of developing them in cell culture.

### Global issues tackled

The University has launched a new institute tasked with investigating global-scale problems, from HIV AIDS to climate change. Based within the School of Social Sciences, the Just World Institute will draw its research from a variety of disciplines to explore challenges such as environment and resources, health and development and conflict and security.

# University News



Neil Armstrong receives his honorary degree



Ready for lift-off in 1969

NASA astronaut Piers Sellers, who provided an erudite laudation for Armstrong during the ceremony, outlined his fellow astronaut's lengthy career, calling for the degree to be conferred not just in recognition of the 1969 Moon mission, but for a life which has also seen the astronaut test early supersonic jet aircraft, complete the first ever docking of two spacecraft and act as vice-chairman of the investigation into the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

Sellers said: "In 2006 Neil said, 'I guess we all want to be remembered not for one piece of fireworks, but for the nature of our daily lives.'"

In his speech of thanks, Armstrong considered the ties between the United Kingdom and United States, remembering two great inventors – the American writer, inventor and politician Benjamin Franklin and his Scottish contemporary James Watt.

"One invented a carriage odometer, a musical instrument, a high-efficiency stove, a device for protecting buildings from lightning and bifocal spectacles," Armstrong said. "The other invented a machine for copying sculptures, an improved oil lamp, a steam mangle, a device for copying letters and a method of measuring distances by telescope. Philosophers both they were, lovers of knowledge and wisdom and doers."

The University of Edinburgh, meanwhile, has impressive links to space exploration – Sellers received a degree in Ecological Science from Edinburgh.

On his second mission to the International Space Station, he carried with him a badge which is now sewn into the lining of the Geneva Bonnet – the medieval cap with which the University's Principal lightly doffs the heads of graduates, conferring their degrees. In his addresses at degree ceremonies, the Principal is fond of regaling graduating students with the story of the world's one and only "medieval space bonnet".

*For an overview of the event in Washington DC, turn to page 16.*

## One man's mission

Following the conferment of an honorary degree on retired astronaut Neil Armstrong, Ed Nash looks at the life and loves of the man who captivated the world with his historic lunar landing.

Setting foot on the surface of the Moon was not merely a great achievement for Neil Armstrong, NASA and the United States – it was a true human triumph, a demonstration of all that mankind was capable of.

Back in 1969, close to a seventh of all humanity waited by the radio for news that the lunar module had touched down, and as Armstrong stepped on to the Moon's surface, his now famous words "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind" reverberated around the planet and made him a household name.

A world tour with his fellow Apollo 11 crew members, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, followed, and the trio was greeted by ecstatic crowds wherever they went.

For a man at the heart of an event that unified the globe in such a way, Armstrong prefers to keep a low profile these days. He rarely appears in public and no longer signs autographs (after discovering how many fakes were in circulation).

So when he arrived at the British Ambassador's residence in Washington

DC to receive an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh last year, few of the more than 200 guests enjoying the pre-ceremony reception noticed him slip quietly into the room.

The honorary degree ceremony and reception at the Ambassador's Residence was one of the highlights of a weekend of events surrounding the 150th anniversary meeting of the University's General Council – the advisory body of which all graduates are members.

**"I guess we all want to be remembered not for one piece of fireworks, but for the nature of our daily lives."**

Receiving an honorary doctorate from an ancient Scottish university was a fitting honour for Armstrong – the retired American astronaut is famously proud of his Scottish ancestry and has previously been awarded the freedom of the Burgh of Langholm.





# Queen of Scots

**Dr Philippa Gregory obtained her PhD in 18th century literature from the University of Edinburgh in 1985. Nowadays, she is well known across the world for her bestselling historical novels and her charitable work in Gambia. She was named the University's Alumnus of the Year 2008, and here, Colin Nicholson, Professor of 18th Century and Modern Literature, talks to Dr Gregory about her work and her award.**

**Colin Nicholson:** Few authors ever 'make it' on the global scale that you have ... What advice would you give to budding writers beginning their literary studies at Edinburgh?

**Philippa Gregory:** My advice would be please, please, please, don't go into the bookshop and think, OK chick lit is fashionable, I'll write that. Write something that you really care about; write it as well as you can and devote yourself to polishing your craft, as if it is a hobby that you adore. You may become one of the very few who can make a living from it, and if not, then you are doing something worth doing and have something to be proud of.

**CN:** Well, your approach obviously works – is there a formula to writing historical novels? How do you write your books?

**PG:** By reading so many historical novels all in one rush, in four years while I was doing my PhD at Edinburgh, I learned about introducing characters, how to set them in the landscape, how much is too much etc. I wouldn't say I have a formula but I have theories I adhere to. Over the years I've also established ways of introducing historical material without letting the fictional story get bogged down. Historical novels should be as gripping and as relevant as modern novels.

**CN:** When you were studying at the University of Edinburgh, did you ever imagine you would enjoy success as an author and be releasing yet another novel [*The Other Queen*, HarperCollins]?

**PG:** Not at all! If you'd asked me then, all I wanted to do was have adoring students and teach! In 1984 when I finished, there was not a job to be had. I was doing freelance academic work and while I was thinking maybe one day someone might employ me, my first novel [*Wideacre*] came out.

**CN:** When you arrived at Edinburgh from Bristol, did you have a sense that you were stepping into an institution that was widely seen as having an illustrious literary heritage?

**PG:** By the time I got to Edinburgh I realised that I had fallen on my feet and was in somewhere that was extraordinary in terms of what it could offer students, and in terms of its history. The environment is enormously cultured – the resources were fabulous, not only at the University but also the city's libraries and art galleries. It was far better than anything I had experienced anywhere before. All of a sudden I was at the centre of a nation's culture. It was extraordinary. And meeting Geoffrey Carnall [Philippa's supervisor, now Honorary Fellow at the University of Edinburgh] was probably one of the luckiest things that ever happened in my life. Because his knowledge is enormous in almost any area, you can ask him about anything and he knows about it. He is incredibly modest with his learning and he doesn't make you feel that it's not OK to ask, so you can ask the most idiotic things and he will tell you information that you would never have otherwise found out. He is a great supervisor, a great teacher and has tremendous interest in his students' progress.

**CN:** So when did you first put pen to paper and start writing fiction?

**PG:** It was while I was at Edinburgh. I was working on my PhD during the day and writing the novel in the evening. The book came out in 1986, when I was 32.

**CN:** And here you are today, with millions of fans all waiting to devour your latest book. Did your audience noticeably widen after the success of *The Other Boleyn Girl* and the resulting Hollywood film?

**PG:** *The Other Boleyn Girl* was what they call the breakthrough book. I was doing very well selling as a historical novelist, selling to people who like historical novels. But now I sell well to the general reading public – I'm not a genre novelist anymore.



**“Of all the things in my life, it's the best thing I've ever done.”**

Above: Gardens for the Gambia has supplied 80 wells to schools so far. Main photograph: Dr Gregory wrote her first novel while she was at Edinburgh.

**CN:** Now you travel the world for work, to the USA, Russia ... You've been everywhere! Do you enjoy travelling?

**PG:** It depends very much on what's happening. A book tour is a very arduous run-about really – I did 18 cities once. You fly in, do the event, then fly out again. But if I go somewhere and have time to see the place and actually enjoy it, then it's great.

**CN:** Was it your travels then that first brought the difficulties in Gambia, West Africa, to your attention? Tell me a little bit about your charity, Gardens for the Gambia.

**PG:** I went there to research the novel *A Respectable Trade* and I met Ismaila Sisay, head teacher at a rural school. He asked me to give him a donation towards building a well. The idea was to provide drinking water for the schoolchildren, who could also build a market garden around it, from which they could eat the food, sell the cash crops for profit and learn how to garden sustainably with well water rather than being dependent on the rain. Now we dig two wells a month; we are really cracking on. It is only a little country, with 250 primary schools, and we have put in about 80 wells. Of all the things in my life, it's the best thing I've ever done. It's a fabulous project.

**CN:** And you made the trip to Edinburgh recently, where you attended the Alumnus of the Year 2008 awards ceremony. How did it feel to return to where it all began, and to receive this recognition?

**PG:** I get back to Edinburgh now and again. Funnily enough, the last time I was in the McEwan Hall was for my daughter's graduation; she did an MSc at Edinburgh. But earlier this year, when I was contacted out of the blue by the University about the award, it was really lovely. A committee nominates someone each year – I was nominated by the librarian and Geoffrey Carnall supported it. I was very surprised and honoured. To have the recognition of your own university is great. It's like your parents being pleased with you, it's the best thing!

*As Honorary Writing Fellow for the University of Edinburgh, Dr Philippa Gregory will run a seminar for English Literature students in 2009.*





# Making their mark

As First Minister Alex Salmond launches a campaign to reconnect with Scotland's emigrants, a new research centre at the University will investigate the true impact of the global Scot.  
*Claire Simpson reports*

**W**alk through the entrance of the Medical School of Ivy League institution, the University of Pennsylvania, and you will see a Scottish thistle carved into the stone.

This permanent etching of such an internationally recognised Scottish emblem is a tribute to the Medical School's founder, Edinburgh native John Morgan who, in 1765, modelled the School – now one of America's best for medicine – on the University of Edinburgh's own Medical School, at which he was a faculty member.

Morgan is just one of a large number of Scottish diaspora who, over the past seven centuries, left their homeland to find success in far-flung places. And he joins a long list of eminent Scots whom Professor Tom Devine, the University of Edinburgh's Sir William Fraser Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography, rattles through, while talking about the launch of the University's new Scottish Centre of Diaspora Studies.

The idea for the Centre, which will be led by Professor Devine and is the first in the world to explore this area of history, was one that originated in his mind some six or seven years ago.

He explains: "There was little work on the role of the Scottish people abroad. The Scots as a people have demonstrated great mobility on a similar level to other ethnic groups such as Jews, Chinese, Irish and Palestinians. Scottish immigration left an enormous mark in the Americas, Canada and the Caribbean."

The Centre has been made possible thanks to a benefaction by Alan and Anne MacFarlane. Alan is a History and Politics graduate of Edinburgh and Managing Director of equity investment management firm Walter Scott and Partners.

"It became apparent to Alan, particularly within his own field of financial services, that the Scottish people had a reputation for prudence, honesty and probity, and he was interested to try and understand why this was," Professor Devine explains.

The £1 million endowment, which is believed to be the largest private donation to a history-related project at a British university, will enable Professor Devine and his team of researchers to delve into the truth behind the legacy of the Scottish reputation internationally.

"Some of the most important intellectual thinking in the world stemmed from the period of the Scottish Enlightenment. Much of the phraseology from the

American Declaration of Independence can be traced back to thinking from that period," Professor Devine suggests.

Indeed, the mobility of the Scots people continues into the 21st century, and the reputation of their forefathers follows them wherever they reside. The Scottish education system is often credited with the intellectual impact made by such a small nation (Scotland's population is five million), and the University of Edinburgh has had a long tradition of producing graduates of all nationalities who find success far beyond Scotland's capital.

Scottish-born Elizabeth Ann Macgregor, who graduated with an MA History of Art (Hons) from the University of Edinburgh in 1979, is one such individual, and she relishes her role as a Scottish ex-pat on the other side of the world. "I had a superb, broad education at both school and university," says Macgregor, who has been Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, Australia, for the past nine years. "I didn't even do art at school so I think that I was lucky not to be pressured to make decisions about specialist subjects too early.

"I haven't worked in Scotland for over 20 years but I still very connected, through my family and friends. I'm proud of my cultural heritage, and as often happens, being away has made that feeling stronger."

Fellow alumnus Crawford Beveridge CBE, Executive Vice-President and Chairman, EMEA, APAC and the Americas, at Sun Microsystems in Silicon Valley, California,

“Some of the most important intellectual thinking in the world stemmed from the period of Scottish Enlightenment. Much of the phraseology from the American Declaration of Independence can be traced back to thinking from that period.”

## Worldwide connections

The University of Edinburgh values its connections with its international alumni base and will be hosting an event on St Andrew's Day (30 November) to mark the year of Homecoming.

As a global institution, which attracts a student population from 130 countries and has its alumni scattered across approximately 173 countries, its international connections are of prime importance.

For more information about Homecoming Scotland 2009, visit [www.homecomingscotland.com](http://www.homecomingscotland.com). To reconnect with old classmates around the globe, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni).

The most popular locations for University of Edinburgh graduates are as follows:

1. **Scotland**
2. **England**
3. **USA**
4. **Northern Ireland**
5. **Germany**
6. **Canada**
7. **Greece**
8. **Australia**
9. **People's Republic of China**
10. **France**

\* Figures taken from Development & Alumni sources on 16 October 2008

has a similar attitude: “The education system in Scotland is well known and highly respected and I think colleagues are always a little surprised that such a small place has provided so many people for the technology industries. There are lots of Scots in Silicon Valley. Many of them have moved there from some of the companies that came to Scotland as inward investments in the 1970s and '80s.”

Beveridge and Macgregor will be among the targets for Homecoming Scotland 2009, a new initiative that aims to reconnect the Scottish emigrant population to their homeland.

A year-long campaign, Homecoming will celebrate Scotland for ex-pats, visitors, Scottish descendents and anyone else who has an interest in the small nation, and it will see each and every Scottish emigrant receive a message from First Minister Alex Salmond, encouraging them to return to their native country in what has been billed as the most comprehensive connection with Scotland's diaspora to date.

Beveridge, who divides his time between California and Scotland, welcomes the idea: “Connecting with the diaspora is a good idea. Scotland has been doing this through the Global Scot programme [a network of some 900 senior business leaders working all over the world] for a number of years and I think the Homecoming will allow us to significantly broaden that group of contacts.”

## Global Scots

*Edit* showcases a selection of University of Edinburgh alumni who have succeeded internationally over the years.

### Crawford Beveridge CBE

Executive Vice-President and Chairman, EMEA, APAC and the Americas, at Silicon Valley's Sun Microsystems, Beveridge graduated in BSc Social Sciences. He is a technology industry veteran with more than 40 years of international experience, including nine years as CEO of Scottish Enterprise.

### Robert Erskine (1677–1718)

A Scottish natural scientist who moved to St Petersburg in 1704, Erskine was one of the most influential and sought-after foreign doctors to serve the Russian court. A memorial plaque in his honour was recently unveiled at the Kunstkamera.

### Elizabeth Ann Macgregor

After graduating from Edinburgh in 1979, Macgregor worked as curator and driver of the Scottish Arts Council's travelling gallery. Following a series of UK-based gallery appointments, she took up directorship of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, Australia, in 1999.

### Reverend Ruth Patterson

Rev Patterson graduated BD in Ecclesiastical History in 1974. Two years later, she was the first woman to be ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. She is Director of the charitable trust Restoration Ministries.

### Piers Sellers

Sellers, who became the third Briton to ever travel into space, graduated from the University in Ecological Science. He became an American citizen in order to join NASA as an astronaut.

### Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart

Chemist Sir Fraser received his BSc and PhD degrees from the University in 1964 and 1966 respectively and has won a significant number of awards for his work. He has recently moved to Northwestern University as Board of Trustees Professor of Chemistry. He previously worked at UCLA.

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007/08



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



International students modelled the new University tartan on St Andrew's Day



Members of the local community gathered to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

## AUGUST 2007

### James Tait Black Memorial Prize winners unveiled

For the first time, the winners of the University's James Tait Black Memorial Prizes were unveiled at an event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The fiction prize was awarded to Pulitzer Prize-winning author Cormac McCarthy for his novel *The Road*, and the biography prize was given to Byron Rogers for his book *The Man Who Went West: The Life of RS Thomas*. The James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, founded in 1919, are the oldest literary awards in the UK. The Prizes are traditionally judged by senior staff from within English Literature at the University, assisted by a reading panel of postgraduate students. The shortlist and eventual winners are selected by Professor Colin Nicholson and Dr Roger Savage.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

### The University officially launches Scotland's first Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute – a national centre to promote economic, educational and cultural ties between Scotland and China – was launched at the University by First Minister Alex Salmond. The Institute joins a global network of more than 140 institutes to develop effective business, cultural and academic links with the fastest growing economy in the world. Backed by the Chinese Education Ministry, it offers cultural and academic programmes to develop awareness of modern China, its history and culture. The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, said: "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, as well as create new possibilities for further Scottish engagement with China."

## OCTOBER 2007

### Edinburgh's brain-boosting menus receive recognition

The University won an award for providing students and staff with food specifically designed to enhance brainpower. The award was made by Food for the Brain, an educational charity led by nutritionists, scientists, teachers and doctors, and Edinburgh was the only university to meet the organisation's strict food standards. University caterers use the latest scientific knowledge to create menus that can improve concentration, memory and learning ability. The University's catering team attended a nutritional workshop, run by Food for the Brain, to help them devise new menus. The workshop covered everything from the ills of processed foods to why extra-virgin oil is good for salads but not for cooking.

## NOVEMBER 2007

### University tartan unveiled on St Andrew's Day

The University's new tartan was officially revealed at an event on St Andrew's Day. Five overseas students from China, India and Australia, who had all come to the University after winning places on the prestigious Scottish International Scholarship Programme, were selected to showcase the tartan at the launch. The tartan's design was created using muted versions of the University's official colours of blue, red and white. These shades were overlaid to create an ancient-style tartan, reflecting the tradition and history of the University. The design was incorporated into the Scottish Tartans World Register.

## DECEMBER 2007

### The University scoops National Energy Efficiency Award

The University was awarded a National Energy Efficiency Award for energy management in buildings. The accolade was given for installing a combined heat and power (CHP) system with cooling to serve the George Square campus. The judges commended the University's partnership approach to optimising the CHP systems and its proactive commitment to tackling climate change. Since 2003, the University, led by Estates and Buildings, has installed CHP systems in three of our five campuses. The systems now generate £1 million savings annually and have cut carbon emissions by more than 4,000 tonnes per year.

## JANUARY 2008

### Students and staff mark Holocaust Memorial Day

University staff and students gathered with members of the local community to mark Holocaust Memorial Day at a special event held at the University Chaplaincy. The event, which was themed 'remember, reflect and react', provided the chance to remember the many millions of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust, as well as the victims of more recent examples of genocide such as the conflict in Darfur and ethnic cleansing in Rwanda and Bosnia. Holocaust survivor and Edinburgh resident David Goldberg was the guest speaker at the event. He arrived in the UK in 1939 as part of the *Kindertransport*, which rescued children from Nazi-occupied Europe in the months preceding the outbreak of World War II.

The University will publish its *Annual Review*, covering the financial year 2007/08, in January. The *Review* focuses on the University community's contribution to excellence, and here, *Edit* outlines just some of the highlights from 2007/08. 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 on request in large print, on PC readable disc or audio cassette.

If you are attending the General Council meeting on 14 February 2009, and would like a copy of the *Annual Review* in advance, please contact us at: Communications and Marketing, the University of Edinburgh, 7–11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE, Scotland UK; email [communications.office@ed.ac.uk](mailto:communications.office@ed.ac.uk); telephone +44 (0)131 650 2252.



Children took part in a wide range of activities at Discover Science



International Student of the Year, Nirupa Puliyeel, with her award



JK Rowling inspects facilities at the Centre for Multiple Sclerosis Research

## FEBRUARY 2008

### Excavations reveal true might of Persian power

Edinburgh archaeologists were part of an international team that unearthed compelling evidence that the Persians matched the Romans for military strength and engineering prowess, during an excavation at an ancient wall in Iran. The Great Wall of Grogan in north-eastern Iran, also known as the Red Snake, is more than 1,000 years older than the Great Wall of China and longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together. It features more than 30 military forts, an aqueduct and water channels along its route. Until recently no-one knew who had built the wall, but scientific dating revealed that it was built in the fifth or sixth century CE, by the Sasanian Persians. Excavations also reveal that the wall bustled with life, and suggest an estimated 30,000 soldiers could have been stationed there.

## MARCH 2008

### Edinburgh reaches out with Discover Science

The University once again took part in the Edinburgh International Science Festival, joining forces with the National Museum of Scotland to offer a packed programme of family science activities. Staff and students from the Colleges of Science and Engineering and Medicine and Veterinary Medicine took part in this important contribution to the University's public engagement programme. Events included practical workshops – many of which were free – which provided children with the opportunity to take part in a range of science activities such as chemistry experiments, computer programming and meeting medics and vets.

## APRIL 2008

### Architecture undergraduate named International Student of the Year

Architecture student Nirupa Puliyeel became the first winner of the University's International Student of the Year Award. The new award was introduced as part of the International Office's Global Horizons event, which seeks to recognise the valuable contribution that international students make to the University, the local community and Scotland. First-year undergraduate Nirupa, who is from Delhi, won the prize with her essay on life as an overseas student. In her piece she compared the similarities and differences between the 13th-century Scotland as depicted in the film *Braveheart* and the Edinburgh with which she is familiar today.

## MAY 2008

### Chinese students stage charity concert for earthquake victims

The University hosted a gala concert in aid of the people affected by the earthquake that devastated parts of China's Sichuan Province. The idea for the concert came from Chinese students of the University who, in association with the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh and other Chinese community organisations in Scotland, put together the event in a just a few days. The concert featured the renowned Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe from China as well as students from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The earthquake was the most powerful to hit China in 30 years and claimed tens of thousands of lives.

## JUNE 2008

### Breast cancer research unit opens at the University

HRH The Prince of Wales officially launched a pioneering new breast cancer research unit at the University. Based at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit brings together some of the best scientists and doctors in Scotland, who will work towards developing a centre of excellence for world-class breast cancer research. The unit's location adjacent to the Edinburgh Breast Clinic, will help ensure laboratory results are turned into direct benefits for patients as quickly as possible. The Unit's Director, Professor David Harrison, says: "By bringing together some of the best scientific and clinical minds in the country, we will be able to improve treatment available for women and ensure patients are able to reap the benefits of our work as quickly as possible."

## JULY 2008

### Harry Potter author visits MS research centre

University researchers were given the chance to meet bestselling author JK Rowling when she toured the Centre for Multiple Sclerosis Research, which she helped to fund. The £2.5 million centre was launched in 2006, with the main funding provided by the Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland following a donation from the Harry Potter creator. The writer, whose mother suffered from MS, is a patron of the MS Society of Scotland. She commented: "It's a Cinderella of illnesses, you hear this all the time, because it's underfunded, because it's ignored." Projects at the Centre include looking at how stem cells could be used to repair nerve damage caused by the disease.

# Alumni Network



## Washington events strengthen US ties

The University celebrated its strong ties with the US by holding a series of events in Washington DC over a weekend last year.

The three-day event marked the 150th anniversary of the University's General Council and provided a unique opportunity for Americans and Canadians who have studied at Edinburgh to renew their links with the University.

Around 300 people attended the programme of events, which included a business conference, a dinner, a service in the National Cathedral and – one of the highlights – the conferment of an honorary degree by the University on astronaut Neil Armstrong.



The National Cathedral service

### Neil Armstrong honoured

Neil Armstrong received the honorary degree of Doctor *honoris causa* at a ceremony held in the British Ambassador's Residence. The laureation was given by astronaut and University of Edinburgh graduate, Piers Sellers.

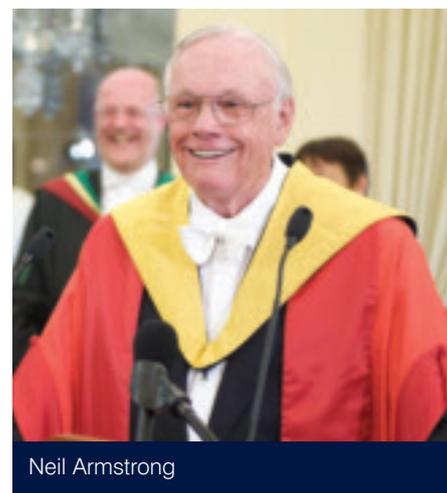
### General Council milestone

The weekend coincided with the 150th anniversary meeting of the University's General Council, held at Georgetown University. The General Council has played an advisory role in the life of the University since 1858. It has been involved in landmark events, such as the admission of women to the University.

### A packed programme

Other events included a conference on the business world's response to climate change at the British Embassy. Speakers included representatives of some of the world's largest companies, including Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola.

The University also hosted a reception and dinner for Edinburgh graduates at



Neil Armstrong

the Library of Congress, the oldest cultural institution in the US.

Principal of the University, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, commented: "We are immensely proud of our historic links to the US and the fact that two Edinburgh graduates were signatories to the Declaration of Independence."

Videos of the Washington weekend events can be viewed at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/2008/june/armstrong](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2008/june/armstrong).

## Geography celebrations underway

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has launched celebrations to mark 100 years of Geography teaching at the University.

The Chancellor met staff and students at the Institute of Geography, where he saw an exhibition of archive material and research work. He viewed films, photographs and posters relating to research in Scotland and around the world.

A year-long series of events is planned to mark the centenary, focussing on the theme 'Geography – then and now'.

The programme includes a reunion reception, alumni open day and talks given by guest speakers including Michael Palin and Nicholas Crane.

To mark the anniversary, the Geography department has also launched the Centenary Research Fund.

## Have your say

The Alumni Office is always interested in feedback from alumni. To help us ascertain how we can help, we have created a short feedback questionnaire. To take part, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni).

The 2008 Questionnaire Prize Draw winner is **Ms Kirsty S Thomson**, who receives an iPod.

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

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.ed.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni).

## A busy timetable of events

The Alumni Office plans to stage a series of events throughout 2009, to complement other University and club events. Below is a snapshot of our planned timetable of events for 2009. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [www.ed.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni). Forthcoming event information will also be included in our new monthly e-newsletter. To register, email us at [alumni@ed.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ed.ac.uk).

### Alumni events for 2009

#### Edinburgh

**April** – Reception

**August** – James Tait Black Awards (during Edinburgh International Book Festival)

**November** – Lecture

\* Throughout the year, public lectures will be held at the University and are open to alumni. These are advertised at [www.ed.ac.uk/news](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news).



A busy timetable of events is planned

#### Glasgow

**March** – Reception

#### London

**February** – Wine tasting

**May** – Alumni reception, Dover House

**Autumn** – Private view

#### USA

**October** – Receptions in New York, Boston and Washington DC



### A worthwhile journey

Members of the Class of 1948 MB ChB held their very last reunion recently. Some of the 78 octogenarians in attendance made the trip to Edinburgh from abroad. The programme included events at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the Scottish Parliament, the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons.

## Reunions in 2009

#### 1949 MB ChB

Iain MacLaren  
**15–17 September**  
Edinburgh

#### 1956 MB ChB

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

#### 1959 BVM&S

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

#### 1959 BDS

Frances Gould  
**20–23 May**  
Edinburgh

#### 1959 Economics

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

#### 1959 Law

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

#### 1959 MB ChB

Allan Forsyth  
**7 September**  
Playfair Library, Old  
College, Edinburgh

#### 1964 MB ChB

Ross Barnetson  
**22–25 September**  
Australia

#### 1966 MB ChB

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

#### 1974 MB ChB

Andrew Norton  
**TBC**

#### 1989 Physics (and related)

Jonathan Kobine  
**11–12 July**  
[www.dundee.ac.uk/  
~jkobine/EdPhys89/](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/~jkobine/EdPhys89/)

#### 1999 BVM&S

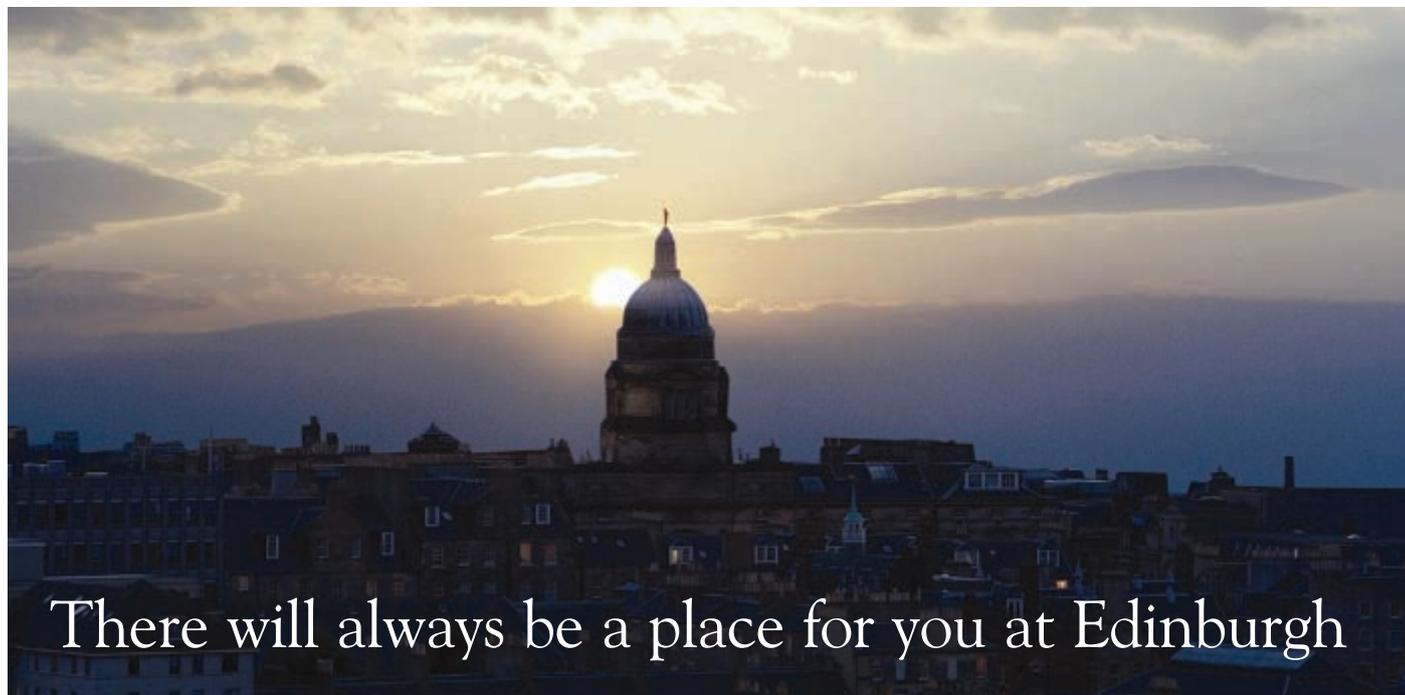
Zaila Dunbar  
& Gillian Mostyn  
**25 April**  
The Balmoral Hotel



#### Special anniversary 'Dick Vet' reunion

For all 'Dick Vet' alumni who graduated in a year ending in a '4' or '9'.  
**19 September 2009**  
For full details, visit [www.vet.ed.ac.uk](http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk).

# Alumni Services



There will always be a place for you at Edinburgh

No matter how long ago they graduated from university, thousands of Edinburgh's alumni have a strong bond with the University and the city, and make it a priority to keep in touch with the University's Development & Alumni Office and acquaintances from their student days.

With some 130,000 alumni living and working in more than 100 countries across the world, this is a truly global affair.

The Development & Alumni Office provides a range of services to help alumni stay in touch:

## • The Alumni Card



As an alumnus, you are eligible for the new-look Alumni Card, which replaces the Edinburgh Passport. It allows discounted access to many of the University's outstanding facilities, and

entitles alumni to a range of discounts with partner organisations worldwide. Benefits include:

- 15% off hire of University venues, accommodation and catering
- a 25% discount at the University's Centre for Sport and Exercise
- 50% off borrowing rights at University libraries
- 20% off all books published by Edinburgh University Press
- discounted rates with our partners in the hotel and leisure industry.

Sign up at [www.ed.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni).

## • The Alumni Portal

The Alumni Portal enables you to:

- update or check your personal details
- find old friends or be found, by using the Alumni Directory
- share or benefit from careers advice
- check your Library lending status.

If you're new to the Portal, you can register at [www.myed.ed.ac.uk](http://www.myed.ed.ac.uk).

## • Networks and clubs

You can develop great social and career connections through our networking sites, including the official University Facebook and LinkedIn groups. There are also alumni clubs and networks in various parts of the world.

Clubs provide opportunities for alumni to get together to renew old friendships and make new ones, socialise and network. Alumni clubs also have a key role in assisting the University with its strategic plans, including international recruitment. Joining a club allows members to benefit from each other's experience and promote lasting ties between alumni and Edinburgh.

To find out if there is a club in your area, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni).

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

“The Development & Alumni Office helped us with the practical elements of formalising a club, such as setting up a club constitution. Our first event, an informal ‘happy hour’, was well attended and we’re planning a series of activities which the Development & Alumni Office will help us promote.”

– Allan Rooney, Chair, New York Alumni Club ([www.edalumni.com](http://www.edalumni.com))



### • Reunions and events

Class reunions are a great way of keeping in touch with friends all over the world. Each year, more than 40 reunion groups get together to reminisce about their time at university, and to find out what’s been happening in each others’ lives since they last met. Many of these events take place at one of the University’s function rooms, so if you are planning an event, remember that alumni receive special discounts on catering and accommodation.

The Alumni team can offer practical advice and send out mailings on your behalf to your fellow alumni.

In addition, the University hosts its own events for alumni throughout the year. Recent functions included private views in Edinburgh and London, talks, receptions and dinners. Where possible, we like to send invitations by email so please make sure we have your up-to-date email address.



### • Careers Service

For up to two years after graduation, alumni can utilise the University’s Careers Service, which offers access to information centres, individual careers guidance, aptitude tests, personality questionnaires, talks and workshops.

We want all our alumni to remain in touch with the Careers Service – you can also give something back by acting as a career contact, taking part in skills and careers information workshops or offering temporary or permanent work to students and graduates.

Employers can advertise voluntary opportunities and part-time and vacation work to students through the Careers Service.

For more information, visit [www.careers.ed.ac.uk](http://www.careers.ed.ac.uk).

### • Business consultancy

The University’s Consultancy Office provides a range of services for business and industry, accessing more than 1,600 academic experts who can lend their knowledge to projects all over the world. These researchers give clear, honest advice to enable assessment of new or existing technologies.

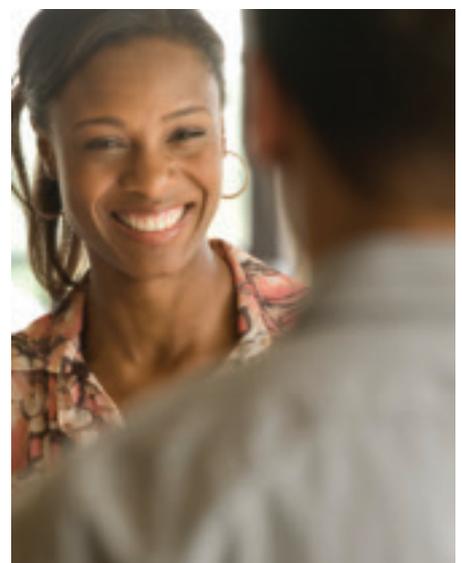
For more information, visit [www.research-innovation.ed.ac.uk](http://www.research-innovation.ed.ac.uk).

### Keep in touch

**Do we have your current contact details, including your email address?**

**If not, you might be missing out on social event invitations as well as our monthly e-newsletter, which keeps you updated on the latest alumni benefits, club activities and news.**

**If your details need updating, please visit the Alumni Portal or email us at [alumni@ed.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ed.ac.uk).**



# World Service



## 1950s

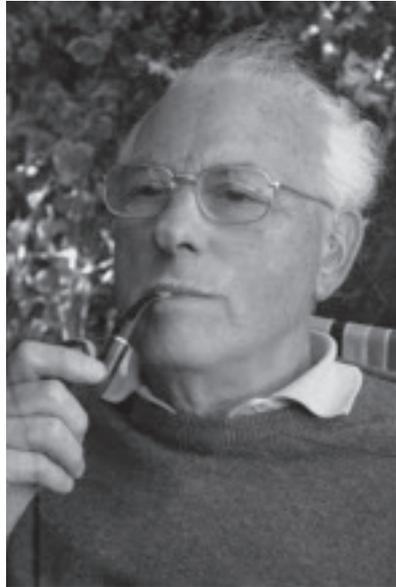
**Mrs Patricia Johnson** (nee Scott) BSc 1955 has been to Uganda on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry, which has a programme for improving chemistry teaching in developing areas.

**Dr Tessa Ransford** OBE MA 1958 celebrated her 70th birthday in July. Edinburgh's Luath Press is bringing out a selection of her poems, entitled *Not Just Moonshine*.

## 1960s

**Mr Victor Loewenstein** BCom 1960 has been working with the University's Business School, participating annually in a lecture and subsequent seminar to the MBA class, as well as the MSc in Management programme.

**Mrs Faith Ponsonby** (nee Glover) MA 1964 found herself seated next to fellow alumna Katherine Egan (nee Winter, Postgraduate Certificate 1963) at the recent Liberal Democrat Federal Conference in Bournemouth. The pair were there to make an intervention in a debate on social



**Mr Ian Malcolm** MA 1960. Using a handheld dictaphone, Mr Malcolm has recorded audio books, including *Dundee Memories*, and six books documenting his time in the merchant navy, from 1943 to 1951.

mobility, and would be interested in meeting with fellow alumni at next year's conference.

**Dr Judith Mackay** MBE MB ChB 1966 was made Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to tobacco control in Asia. Dr Mackay is a medical doctor and senior policy adviser to the World Health Organization and health adviser to a number of national governments.

## 1970s

**Mr Kenneth G Cargill** MA LLB 1972 has retired from the BBC after 30 years in journalism, latterly as head of news and current affairs.

**Mrs Elizabeth Baggally** (nee Morcom) MA 1976 is coming back to Edinburgh after 30 years down south. She has been a Master of Wine for 25 years and has been writing *House & Garden's* wine column for 11 years, as well as working as a wine consultant for restaurants and the wine education industry.

**Mrs Alison Goldstein** MA 1979 lives in Davidson, North Carolina, USA, and has raised two daughters, both of whom are doing well.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

**John Leighton**  
MA Fine Art, 1982

**After holding posts in some of the world's top galleries, including the National Gallery in London and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Belfast-born John Leighton returned to Edinburgh in 2006 where he is now Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland.**

"I feel like I've come full circle. Although I hope that I don't end up back in the cold B&B on Calton Terrace where I stayed as a student!

"The move from Northern Ireland to Scotland always seemed like a natural route for young people, especially in the 1980s, but it was a particular eye-opener for me. Having grown up in the difficult atmosphere of Belfast, Edinburgh felt like a very open and cosmopolitan place. It, of course, had its cold and grim aspects, but the mixture of people and cultures was fresh to me. Now that I'm back I can

**"I ALWAYS FELT I WAS PART OF A REAL, LIVING PLACE AND COMMUNITY."**

see how this aspect of the city has continued to grow, and it's even more European now.

"There's a definite balance between town and garden at the University of Edinburgh. I was based in George Square, but I never felt like I had left the city and stepped onto campus. For such a big institution, Edinburgh has managed not to dominate – I always felt I was part of a real, living place and community.

"The National Galleries continues to work closely with the University, including supporting postgraduate research. We also have a member of staff, Francis Fowle, who holds a joint post as curator of French Art at the Gallery and lecturer for the University. Both institutions are key elements of the continuing artistic prominence of Edinburgh."



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

## 1980s

**Mrs Barbara A Lee** (nee Miller-Craig) BVM&S 1980 has set up a new SA/Eq practice in Wanaka, NZ, together with two colleagues. All married with families and other interests, their aim is to have time for life outside work while maintaining their veterinary careers.

**Professor Derek Tocher** BSc 1980, PhD 1983 was appointed as Pro-Provost for East and South-East Asia at UCL in September.

**Professor Wendy Jones Nakanishi** PhD 1984 has had a video interview posted on the internet by a Japanese academic researchers' network.

**Dr Simon Duffy** MA 1987, PhD 2001 was awarded the 2008 Prince Albert Medal for social innovation by the Royal Society of Arts. He is currently CED of In Control Partnerships.

**Mrs Stasha Healy** (nee Mills) Junior Year Abroad 1989 happily announces her move to Connecticut, wedding and impending birth of her first child.

## 1990s

**Professor Chris Bellamy** PhD 1991 has been awarded the Duke of Westminster's Medal for Military Literature, awarded annually by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, for his book *Absolute War: Soviet Russia in the Second World War*. He is Professor of Military Science and Doctrine and Director of the Security and Resilience Group, Cranfield University, based at the Defence Academy of the UK at Shrivenham.

**Ms Nancy Massaro** MSc 1992. Together with Kim DeBonte, Ms Massaro welcomed Sophia Angeline DeBonte Massaro into the world in March 2007.

**Ms Liz Owens** MA 1994. Aided and abetted by Georgie Robertson (MA 1994), Ms Owens performed her one-woman show, "Scottish but of Irish Descent", at the 2008 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, under the stage name Lizo.

**Mrs Sheila McGoran** MSc 1995 and **Ms Hannah McGoran** MSc 2000. Mother and

daughter, Sheila and Hannah announce recent appointments at home and abroad. Sheila is Regional Manager (West of Scotland) for the Scottish Health Council, while Hannah has achieved consultant status with a London-based international management consultancy firm. She is currently working on a short-term IT assignment in Dubai.

## 2000s

**Mr Christopher Harris** MSc 2002 and **Susanna Leung** MSc 2002 will marry in Hong Kong in the autumn of 2009. Both currently live in Enfield, Middlesex.

**Reverend Andreas Grandy-Teig** BD 2005 was ordained by the Bishop of Oslo as a priest in the Church of Norway in August.

**Mr James Dolan** MSc 2007 is currently working in development for Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University in the Boston area of Massachusetts. In May, he visited fellow IEP alumnus Emily Stull in Texas.

*\*World Service contributions may be edited.*

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Les Robertson

BSc Mathematical Physics, 1968

**Les Robertson retired in October 2008 after 34 years with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Most recently, he was involved with the launch of the Large Hadron Collider, a gigantic particle accelerator based near Geneva.**



"I was born in Kirkwall, in Orkney, and decided on Edinburgh for several reasons, not least of all the city's attractiveness and the fact there was a twice-weekly boat service between Edinburgh and Orkney in addition to the daily plane service.

"I decided to study Mathematics and Physics, based at two houses in Roxburgh Street. I was very privileged to be able to spend these four years in the exhilarating atmosphere around the Old College and George Square, with students of all subjects mixed together.

"After graduation, I went into computing, which was in its early days but was growing rapidly. Looking for an opportunity to see more of the world I eventually joined CERN in 1974.

"During more than 34 years at CERN I have been involved in the development and, later, management of the physics research computing services. I was involved from an early stage in planning the data handling services for the experiments that will use the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) that has recently entered service.

"In one way the LHC brought me full circle, back to Edinburgh, as one of the first tasks of the experiments at the LHC is to find the Higgs boson, proposed way back in the 1960s by [retired Edinburgh physicist] Peter Higgs."

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# My Edinburgh



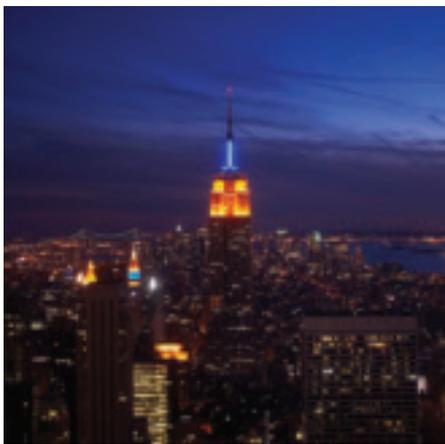
Everyone has special memories of their university years. Coming to Edinburgh means a lot of memories are enhanced by the stunning location, breathtaking weather and all-round cosmopolitan experience. In this new feature, *Edit* invites alumni to share what made their student days so memorable. If you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



**Allan Rooney**  
LLB, 1999

## Where do you live now, and why?

New York City, USA. I came after graduating from Edinburgh and haven't quite managed to leave. I don't think I ever will as you have a little of everything in New York.



## When did you live in Edinburgh?

From 1995 to 1999, with a year abroad.

## What did the University do for you?

I studied law but never intended to practice. Now I have my own law firm in New York and love my work – the University made that possible.



## What do you miss most about the city?

Chilling on the Meadows on those rare sunny days, albeit relaxation tempered by some angst that I should be revising!

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

The Sandwich Basket shop round the corner from the Woolpack pub, and the Living Room on the Cowgate for the massive burgers.

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

Pollock Halls – a great variety of people from all over the country, and the world.



## Which book influenced your life the most when you were here?

I vividly remember loving the book *Trainspotting* and devoured a ton of Iain Banks.

## What is your favourite view of the city?

I'm sure everyone would say it, but Arthur's Seat took some beating.



## What would you recommend as 'unmissable' to a tourist when they visit Edinburgh?

Just a stroll around the Old and New Towns – stop in at the Piemaker by Old College for a re-fuel in between.

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

The greatest gift was the friends I met. While we are all over the world now, they are the type of friends with whom you just pick up where you left off after a decade.

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



## Cat Smith

MA in Philosophy and English Literature, 2004

### Where do you live now, and why?

I still live in Edinburgh. It's a vibrant, cultural city but it's not too big. Plus, you're never too far from the fantastic scenery if you need to get away for the weekend.

### When did you live in Edinburgh?

2000 – present day.

### What did the University do for you?

University taught me to really think and question everything I read and also gave me the chance to get involved in theatre for the first time. I met many new people and made a lot of friends with whom I still keep in close touch, and I also met my partner.



### What do you miss most about the city when you are not here?

Being able to watch the sunrise from Arthur's Seat.

“ University taught me to really think and question everything I read and also gave me the chance to get involved in theatre. ”

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

Cloisters Bar, the Black Medicine Coffee Co., the Gallery of Modern Art, great second-hand bookshops in the Grassmarket and the farmers' market.

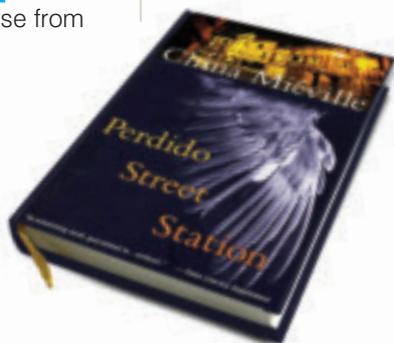


### What was your first impression of Edinburgh when you arrived as a fresher?

What is that smell? Oh, it's the brewery! Plus just how difficult it is to give directions around the Old Town.

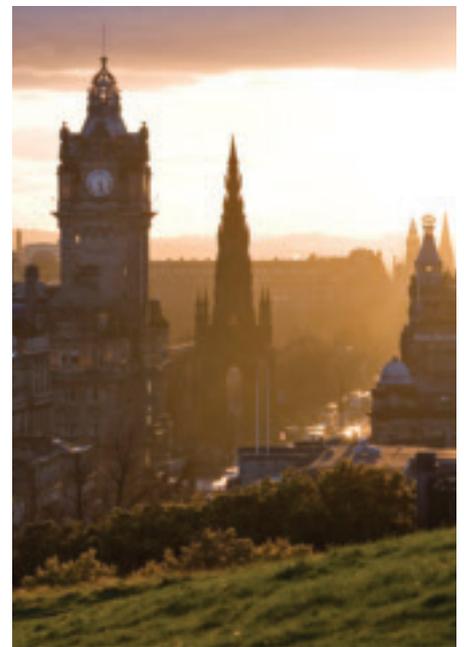
### Which book influenced your life the most when you were here?

Apart from all the philosophy texts, one of my favourite novels is probably *Perdido Street Station* by China Miéville.



### What is your favourite view of the city?

From the top of Calton Hill around sunset on a crisp autumn day.



### What would you recommend as 'unmissable' to a tourist when they visit Edinburgh?

If it's summer, the festivals.

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

Running a Festival Fringe venue as a member of the Edinburgh University Theatre Company.





The University of Edinburgh's

# Talbot Rice Gallery

## About Talbot Rice Gallery

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

## Friends of Talbot Rice Gallery

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

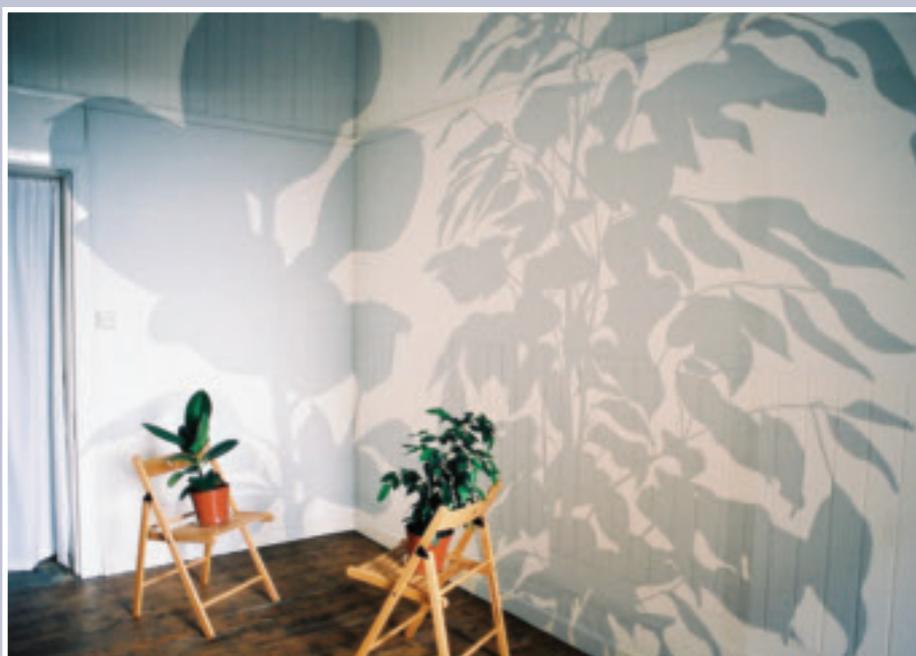
## Talbot Rice Gallery

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

**T:** 0131 650 2210  
**E:** [info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk](mailto:info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk)  
**W:** [www.trg.ed.ac.uk](http://www.trg.ed.ac.uk)

## Opening hours

Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm



## Exhibitions

### DESIRE LINES

Miranda Blennerhassett, Alec Finlay,  
Oliver Godow, Iain Kettles, Chad  
McCail and Ellen Munro

14 February 2009 to 21 June 2009

Talbot Rice Gallery is branching out of its usual setting and has invited a selection of artists to create artworks across the University campus. While the Gallery is temporarily closed for refurbishments (14 December 2008 to 31 July 2009), these artists will choose a public site on campus to explore their own practice and engage with students, staff and visitors alike.

Some works will be discreet and surprising while others will have a direct dialogue with their location and the people who use it on a daily basis. The Gallery will produce a guide to orientate visitors around the campus, where they can discover works as diverse as wall painting, sculpture and photography.

### Image

Miranda Blennerhassett



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# Billet

## The General Council of the University of Edinburgh

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

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



This is my first Report as Convener, and I am conscious of the honour and privilege I have been given in leading the Business Committee for the next four years. My first pleasant duty is to thank Mr Alan Johnston, my predecessor, for his most successful time in office. The current relationship between the General Council and the University has never been as strong or as productive, I am sure, and this is due largely to Alan's influence and his capable team, most ably led by Mr Neil Hynd, Vice-Convener, and Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council. It is a major task for me to step into Alan's shoes, but I am confident that the present Committee will build on past successes and be able to help and support our University.

Our Standing Committees continue to be very active on a wide range of matters, and you will find the detailed Reports of the current work of the Committees in the Annex to the Billet. I am grateful to the Officers, Conveners and Members of the Committee for their contributions to the work of the Committees, and for their support for other events.

Undoubtedly, the most memorable recent event was the outstandingly successful visit to Washington DC in June 2008 for the statutory Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council. Our Public Affairs Standing Committee and the University's Development & Alumni and

Communications & Marketing deserve the highest praise for ensuring that the whole weekend event was so memorable. You can view highlights of the occasion on the General Council and University websites, and they are well worth watching. The North American meeting was widely welcomed by the members living there, and this echoed the appreciation expressed at the General Council's previous 'away' visits to London in 2004 and Paris in 2006.

My first official function in Edinburgh was to welcome well over 80 General Council members and their guests to our annual Edinburgh Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing at the Talbot Rice Gallery in the Old Quad. The exhibition, entitled 'Painting as Document', was of recent and new work by the Edinburgh-born artist Andrew Grassie. His paintings were well received by the critics and Pat Fisher, Principal Curator at the Talbot Rice Gallery, gave us an interesting insight into the exhibition.

In the Convener's Report a year ago, my predecessor referred to the 2006 National Student Survey of student satisfaction which seemed to indicate that our University appeared to be doing less well in this respect compared to other like institutions. This was of concern to everyone, and so the Business Committee has strongly supported the initiative of the University in setting up a substantial review of the position, led by Professor Simon van Heyningen, Vice-Principal for Learning and Teaching. We will continue to keep members informed of progress.

As has been mentioned in previous Reports, it has been decided as one means of commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the General Council to present a sculpture to the

University. The sculpture has been commissioned from the well-known young Scottish sculptor Kenny Hunter, and the presentation of the sculpture to the University took place on 3 December 2008. Further details of this important event will be given in my next Report. The University also recognised this important milestone by commissioning specially designed ceremonial robes for successive Conveners of the Business Committee and Secretaries of the General Council, and these were presented at the General Council Meeting in Washington DC in June 2008. They are most welcome and deeply appreciated gifts, which confirm further the very strong links between the University and the General Council.

Sadly, we have said farewell to outgoing Committee members Mr Fred Lawson, Mrs Patricia Spark, Ms Diana Webster and Dr Ian Wotherspoon. They contributed significantly to the work of the Business Committee and its Standing Committees for which we are most grateful. Mr Neil Hynd completed his term as Vice-Convener, and we are grateful for his calm and steady support throughout his time in office; and Dr Frances Dow, who was Convener of the Academic Standing Committee, was elected Vice-Convener in succession. Dr Charles Swainson has agreed to chair the Academic Standing Committee, and we welcome Professor R E Asher, Mr Michael Conway, Ms Doreen Davidson, Mrs Mary McGregor and Mr Bruce Rae to the Business Committee. They all bring a wide variety of experience and skills, which will further strengthen our Committees.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next Meeting in Old College on Saturday 14 February 2009, and at the Lunch afterwards. On that occasion you will be able to admire the new ceremonial robes gifted to us by our University.

## General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 14 February 2009

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

**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 (see page 33 for details)

**\*Please note that the Meeting will be filmed.**

### AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

<b>1</b>	Result of the Election of General Council Assessor and Members of the Business Committee
<b>2</b>	Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 14 June 2008 ( <b>PAPER A</b> )
<b>3</b>	Matters arising
<b>4</b>	Report of the Business Committee
<b>5</b>	Dates of future meetings of the General Council
<b>6</b>	Notice of forthcoming Elections
<b>7</b>	Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University
<b>8</b>	Any other competent business
<b>9</b>	Adjournment

## PAPER A

### Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 14 June 2008

#### Present:

**Mr Mark Ballard**  
Chairman

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

**Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea**  
Principal and Vice Chancellor

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

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

#### 71 other members

**Dr MaryCatherine Burgess**  
Associate Chaplain to the University  
opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Old College, Edinburgh, on 9 February 2008

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2008 were approved.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Report of the Business Committee

Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee, gave the Report of the Business Committee. He said that it was a great privilege to address the June 2008 Meeting in

Washington DC, building upon the success of the policy of holding meetings outside Edinburgh every two years, first in London in 2004 and then in Paris in 2006. He warmly thanked the University for the generous and thoughtful gift of the splendid robes that had just been received to mark the 150th Anniversary of the General Council. The gift was particularly symbolic of the recognition of the position, status and influence of the General Council in the life of the University, and he reaffirmed that the relationship of the General Council with the University remained very constructive. The current Business Committee had great breadth and experience, and its role should not be underestimated in offering advice and influencing not only University management, but also politicians, journalists and other

# Billet

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external stakeholders. The Convener commented that as he reached the end of his period of office, he was bound to reflect on the many challenges and successes the University had recently faced. In his view, the successes had surely won, and while there was still much to be done on topics such as current funding, student satisfaction and the Research Assessment Exercise, he was confident that the University retained a core strength that would serve it well in this challenging environment.

The Standing Committees continued to work very well on behalf of the General Council, as was clear from the full reports in the Annex to the Billet. Amongst other topics, the Constitutional Standing Committee was considering online elections; the Finance & Services Standing Committee was maintaining an oversight of related services; the Academic Standing Committee continued to have strong links with the Heads of Schools; and the Public Affairs Standing Committee was advising on future web-casting of General Council statutory meetings through the work of its Media Group.

The Convener said that he felt very privileged to have been able to serve as Convener for the last four years. He thanked his fellow officers, Mr Neil Hynd, Vice-Convener, and Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of Council, and Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary. He wished the incoming Convener of the Business Committee, Dr Alan D G Brown, every success, and he affirmed that this was an important time for the General Council to continue to assist in influencing University policy.

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. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

---

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 14 February 2009 in Old College, University of Edinburgh. Any

motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 26 November 2008. The following Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 20 June 2009 in Edinburgh. Any motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 1 April 2009.

## 5. Notice of forthcoming Elections

---

There would be elections for one General Council Assessor to the University Court and five members of the Business Committee in February 2009. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office should be received in the General Council Office by 26 November 2008.

## 6. Presentation by Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

---

The Principal said that it was a very great pleasure to address the General Council in Washington DC on its 150th Anniversary. He noted his appreciation of the support of the Business Committee and the General Council Assessors, and praised the General Council's success in taking statutory meetings to venues other than Edinburgh, and thereby reaching out to the University's alumni worldwide. For his presentation in Washington DC, he intended to deal with the University's links with the United States, and with the global characteristics of the University.

The University's links with the United States were very strong, and he noted that the model for universities in the United States and Canada was the Scottish model, and for the most part it was the Edinburgh model, since the University was one of four 18th-century universities that had a civic engagement, and had both medicine and law at the heart of the University. In addition, as a post-Reformation university which, confident in that position, had never applied religious tests, it catered for a very broad notion of staff and students. As a consequence, the University had been a dominant influence on the formation of universities in the United States and Canada.

The most famous graduate in terms of impact on the United States was John Witherspoon, a Theology graduate of 1739, who had subsequently become sixth President of Princeton University.

One of the University's key contributions had been in the field of American history. The most illustrious of all the University's Principals had been Principal William Robertson, who led the University in the Enlightenment, and also devised the modern style of writing history as a continuous narrative. He wrote the first proper history of the United States, which was still used in the teaching of history in that country one hundred years after his death. The University's modern links with US universities were growing very fast, and they involved multiple informal means of collaboration, including academic to academic. A recent new ranking on publications on energy and the environment assigned the first five places to universities in the United States and the sixth was the University of Edinburgh. In terms of formal links, the University had many undergraduate student exchange agreements, including with Georgetown University and the Universities of Virginia, North Carolina and Chicago, to name but a few.

In terms of research links, the single most important link for the University was that funded by the Scottish Enterprise and Government with the University of Stanford. Recently, the University had also received funding from the Scottish Government for STAR (Scotland's Transatlantic Relations Project), which was led by the University of Edinburgh, and was looking at international research, particularly in the Humanities. A new MSc in Literature and Transatlanticism was currently being initiated in the University.

The Principal noted that there were considerable numbers of American students at the University, about 1,500 at present, and rather unusually the dominant group of overseas students at the University was from the United States. There were about 250 US students working on doctorates; and there were about 88 in the Medical School. There were about 6,000 US alumni that the

University was in contact with, and it was very important that organised alumni activity in North America should be expanded. There was the Edinburgh University Alumni Club of New York; there was a new Edinburgh University Alumni Club in Washington DC; and the Edinburgh University Alumni Club of New England was still at the planning stage. The University was tremendously appreciative of the philanthropic support from individual US alumni, and of the organised support from the US Development Trust.

In terms of the University's global characteristics, the most important was to have a global mission: to have a mission that transcended the boundaries of the nation state, educated for a global perspective and advanced the frontiers of knowledge worldwide. This was very important since as the leading Scottish university, the University of Edinburgh had responsibilities to Scottish civic life, Scottish education and Scottish medicine, for example, but it also had tremendously important world responsibilities. Other characteristics of a global University were increasing intensity of knowledge production; changes in the academic profession; diversified funding; the need to build new relationships between universities and between governments and corporations to advance economic development and produce knowledge for the social good; worldwide recruitment; and the need to manage greater internal complexity, particularly that needed for research in the form of interdisciplinary centres.

In measuring the University's global mission against these criteria, the Principal noted that its current mission transcended boundaries: the British Centre for the Study of the Arab World had been secured against fierce competition, and following an £8 million donation from the Kingdom Foundation, Saudi Arabia, the University had a major new centre for the study of the Arab World. The University also had the Confucius Institute, the largest of the 200 Institutes funded by the Chinese Government. In terms of intensity of knowledge production, the University applied the scientific method very strongly in education and psychology, as

well as in archaeology and literature. The University had assets in medicine and veterinary medicine, and dominated UK super-computing. In regard to professional changes, the University was moving from a simple model to complex research teams, which involved many specialist staff. The University was a leader among UK universities in applying the model for 'Roberts Training', namely, the training in the general methods that go with being a successful researcher. In regard to diversified funding, the University was in a key position. Less than 30% of its funding came from the Scottish Government, while more than 40% was competitive research money from the Research Councils. In addition, the University had seven wholly owned companies. Furthermore, the University received income from philanthropic support, which was growing; from intellectual property; and from organisations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO. The University was also active in shifting relationships, and worked with Government, with industry, and with the National Health Service. In terms of worldwide recruitment, the University had students from 144 countries and staff from 88 countries. Being a genuinely global university meant that the University had to learn best practice from universities around the world. The University was also effective at dealing with increasing complexity. Staff formed themselves into projects, groups, programmes, centres and institutes: and the Principal's Strategy Group was responsible for looking at ways of encouraging working across boundaries.

In terms of global collaboration, the Principal said that progress was really growing with universities in India, Korea and Latin America, with UNESCO and with bodies such as the Wellcome Trust in the UK. The University was currently ranked 23rd in the world, and it met all the characteristics for a global university, but the Principal noted that there was still work to be done on each of these. Over the last six years, the University had grown by about 8%, and had in excess of 8,000 staff. There were very good links with some areas of the world but there were

other areas in which the links required to be built up. There were many challenges ahead for the University, but the Principal said that he was confident that with the help of alumni, staff and students, it would continue to succeed.

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

## 7. Any other competent business

No matters were raised.

## 8. Adjournment

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

Dr MaryCatherine Burgess, Associate Chaplain, closed the meeting with a benediction.

*The Annex to the Billet contains supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of the presentation, and the Business Committee's report to the meeting on 14 June 2008. General Council members may either collect the Annex from 30 minutes 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,  
Scotland UK.*

*Tel: +44 (0)131 650 2152  
Email: General.Council@ed.ac.uk*

## Postal Election

### Candidates for Postal Election of General Council Assessor and Members of the Business Committee

The following nominations have been received for the election of General Council Assessor and five members of the Business Committee to serve until 31 July 2013.

### Candidates for Postal Election of General Council Assessor



**Mr Alan McDougall Johnston**

MBA 1989, CSci, CChem, FRSC, CBiol, FIBiol

*Proposed by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963*

*Seconded by Professor Ann McIntyre Smyth, BSc 1970, PhD 1974, MPhil 1975*

I recently completed a term as elected Convener of General Council Business Committee and now seek to build on the constructive relationships I established within and beyond the University; as well as a good understanding of current issues in University Governance, including Access, Funding and Student satisfaction. Having retired early from my post of Commercial Director in a large International Public Company engaged in Biomedical Research, I currently hold some Non-Executive Director positions in Charities, and Public and Private Sector Organisations. I live in Edinburgh, and undertake to apply my experience, energy and enthusiasm to University Court, if elected.



**Mr George Lawrence Allen**

DLP, DHS, DPHR, CRP, MA, BL 1961, LL.M, BSc, MSc, FLS, FRMS, FRSPH, FRSA

*Proposed by Professor Francis McManus, MLitt 1984, LLB (Hons) 1991*

*Seconded by Mr Hugh Patrick Rooney, MSc Social Sciences 1986, MSc Nurse Education*

With the benefit of my very many years of experience as a member of the Business Committee, the Constitutional Standing Committee, the Curriculum Committee, etc.,

I do believe that I am well placed to propound and to advocate policies which would promote further the standing of The University of Edinburgh. As a very recent graduate of the University myself, one of my interests is to endeavour to give greater voice to the enthusiastic support of our alumni and alumnae, and to the worthy aspirations of our current body of students for such things as smaller class sizes and more feedback.



**Mrs Anne Margaret Tait**

BSc 1965

*Proposed by Professor John Mavor, MPhil 2007*  
*Seconded by Mr Iain Grant Mitchell, LLB (Hons) 1973*

Mathematics graduate and an Assessor on the University Court I am aware of key issues facing the University, and contribute fully in deliberations. I have served on the General Council Business Committee, subsequently as Convener, encouraging excellence in teaching and development of the graduate donation programme. Currently serving on the Court's Finance & General Purposes Committee and five Strategic Project Committees. Enhancement of the student experience is vital; having discussed this also with alumni in Paris and Washington at General Council meetings there. I wish to engender in graduates and students even greater pride and support of their *Alma Mater*.

### Candidates for Postal Election of Members of the Business Committee



**Mr William Shields Henderson**

MA 2002

*Proposed by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963*

*Seconded by Mrs Marjorie Duncan Appleton, BArch (Hons) 1969*

Chartered Accountant with wide experience of industrial and commercial companies. Director of number of successful Scottish companies,

Trustee of Arts Charities. Recent mature student at Edinburgh. I bring knowledge of business and finance and of Scottish business community.



**Dr Simon John Cunningham**

PhD 1986

*Proposed by Mr John Campbell Cuthbertson, BVM&S 1966, MPVM, Dip VSM*

*Seconded by Mr Michael Victor Thrusfield, Lecturer, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies*

For over 30 years, I worked in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations Secretariat. I helped the New York Edinburgh Alumni club, organizing their Burns Supper. I hope that my experience can be of benefit to the University in its capacity as a major international body.



**Mr Neil Robertson Hynd**

BArch 1969

*Proposed by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963*

*Seconded by Mr Bruce Landale Keith Rae, LLB 1967*

Having already served one full term, as vice-convener, of the Business Committee, I would be proud to serve a second term in which I would bring together my Civil Service managerial experience from within the Scottish Office and my knowledge of the current workings of the University.



**Ms Jane Elizabeth Kille**

MA 1973, MBA 1994

*Proposed by Mr Bruce Landale Keith Rae, LLB 1967*

*Seconded by Mrs Marjorie Duncan Appleton, BArch (Hons) 1969*

I have held several senior administrative positions in public and private sector

organisations of all sizes. I support businesses through reorganisation and have experience of membership organisations including the RIAS. I am on the RSA Scottish Committee and am Vice Chair of the West End Community Council, Edinburgh.



**Mr William  
Ruthven Gemmell**  
LLB 1979

*Proposed by Mr Douglas Andrew Connell,  
LLB 1974*

*Seconded by Mrs Hilary Ann Vandore,  
MA 1968, MBA*

Career in Law and Finance. Former President of Law Society of Scotland and Council Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. Part time tutor Faculty/School of Law, University of Edinburgh, for over 15 years. Committed to future and success of University through contribution to the Business Committee.



**Mr George  
Lawrence Allen** DLP, DHS,  
DPHR, CRP, MA, BL 1961,  
LL.M, BSc, MSc, FLS,  
FRMS, FRSPH, FRSA

*Proposed by Professor Francis McManus,  
MLitt 1984, LLB 1991*

*Seconded by Mr Hugh Patrick Rooney,  
MSc Social Science 1986, MSc Nurse  
Education*

With the benefit of my very many years of experience as a member of the Business Committee, the Constitutional Standing Committee, the Curriculum Committee, etc., I do believe that I am well placed to propound and to advocate policies which would promote further the standing of The University of Edinburgh.

**Continued overleaf**

## 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

### General Council Assessors on the University Court:

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

### Business Committee:

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

<b>A</b>	Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Charles P Swainson, MB ChB, FRCPE, FFPHM	2009
<b>F</b>	Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee: 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 Finance and Services Standing Committee, and  
**'P'** a member of the Public Affairs Standing Committee:

	Chancellor's Assessor: The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, MA, LLB, QC, FRSE, FRIAS	ex-officio
<b>C</b>	Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartS	2009
<b>C</b>	Francis R MacT 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>P</b>	Frank I Stewart, MB ChB, MA	2011
<b>F</b>	Hilary A Vandore, MA, MBA	2011
<b>A</b>	R E Asher, BA, PhD, DLitt, FRSE	2012
<b>P</b>	Michael C Conway, MA	2012
<b>P</b>	Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD	2012
<b>F</b>	Mary M McGregor, MA, PGC	2012
<b>C</b>	Bruce L K Rae, LLB	2012

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary Scott, BA

*Continued from page 31*



**Mr Malcolm Paul Murray Errington**  
BA, M.Ed 1985

*Proposed by Mr Colin David Harvey, MA 1972*

*Seconded by Mr Thomas Robert MacDonald, MA 1972*

Before taking early retirement for family health reasons, I was Senior Lecturer in Education in (the now) University of the West of Scotland and served for 12 years on the Senate. I would hope to contribute to the further enhancement of the General Council's role as a (positively) critical 'friend'.



**Professor Ian Wishart Sutherland**  
BSc (Hons) 1958,  
PhD 1961, DSc 1972

*Proposed by Emeritus Professor Mary Norval, BSc 1966, PhD 1969, DSc*

*Seconded by Dr Elizabeth Skeoch Cumming, MA 1969, DipHistArt, PhD 1987*

My teaching and research experience in Edinburgh University, serving on Council of the Society for General Microbiology sitting on National and International Committees and my involvement in the Scottish Schoolteachers Biotechnology courses and commercial Biotechnology, enables me to offer a strong contribution to the work of the General Council.

*Voting papers are enclosed and should be completed and returned in the enclosed envelope addressed to the Secretary of the General Council.*

*Details of all candidates appear on pages 30, 31 and 32 and online at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/elections2009.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/elections2009.htm).*

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



**Left: Attendees at the Washington meeting. Right: Before the General Council Lunch, left to right: Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council; Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; Mr Alan Johnston, outgoing Convener of the Business Committee; Dr Roualeyn Fenton-May, Chairman of the University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust; Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; Mr Mark Ballard, Rector, and Dr MaryCatherine Burgess, Associate Chaplain**

The June 2008 Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council took place on Saturday 14 June 2008, hosted by Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA. This meeting, which coincided with the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the General Councils of the four Ancient Scottish Universities, was also the first occasion on which the General Council had held one of its statutory meetings in North America.

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, gave an inspiring address at the meeting on the University's current progress,

and outlined some of the University's recent initiatives and achievements.

Coverage of the Convener's Report of the Business Committee and the Principal's Address to the General Council in Washington DC is available in the video gallery on the General Council website at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/video\\_gallery.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/video_gallery.htm). Information about other June 2008 weekend events in Washington DC can be found on page 16 of *Edit*, and video coverage is available on the University website at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/june](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/june).

## The February 2009 General Council Lunch

Following the Half-Yearly Meeting, members of the General Council, other alumni, partners, family and friends are cordially invited to the General Council Lunch on Saturday 14 February 2009 in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College.

Professor Sir Ian Wilmut FRS, FMedSci, FRSE, Director of the Centre for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and previously Head of the Department of Gene Function and Development at the Roslin Institute, where his group created Dolly the sheep, will give the after-Lunch address.

If you would like to attend the next General Council Lunch, please complete and return the form, opposite. Tickets at £18 include a pre-Lunch wine reception and buffet Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available for purchase at the meal.



**Professor Sir Ian Wilmut**

## The February 2009 General Council Lunch

Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on Saturday 14 February 2009, 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, Scotland UK. Alternatively you may order online at: [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/events.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/events.htm).

**Closing date for applications: Monday 2 February 2009**



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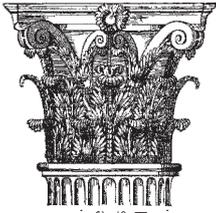
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Highlights of The Romans in Africa cruise: Day 1: Fly from the UK to Tunis. Moor at La Goulette overnight. Day 2: Tunis. View remains of Punic Carthage. Visit the Bardo Museum, the world's finest collection of floor mosaics. Day 3: Anchor off Sousse. Visit El Djem, and the third largest amphitheatre in the Empire. Optional excursion to Roman colonia of Thuburbo Maius. Sail through the night for Libya. Day 4: To the ruined city of Sabratha for an atmospheric performance of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in the Roman theatre. Day 5: Tripoli, and the remarkable display of Greek and Roman sculpture in the Jamahiriya Museum. Days 6 & 7: Two days spent at Leptis Magna, one of the world's most spectacular ruined cities. Day 8: Sail across the Gulf of Sirte. Day 9: Ptolomais, with its famous 'House of Columns' and municipal cisterns (the largest in Africa). Fine exhibits in the museum. Day 10: The vast site of Cyrene with its magnificent 5th-century Doric Temple and colonnaded gymnasium. Day 11: The ancient port of Apollonia, and a Graeco-Roman theatre, where actors dramatise readings from Classical authors. Sail to Crete. Day 12: From Heraklion fly back to London.



View of Tripoli (adapted), lithograph c. 1850

FOR 2009, Martin Randall Travel have five different Mediterranean Cruises to choose from.

*Like our small group tours, these are designed for people with intellectual curiosity and an interest in history, archaeology and the arts.*

Naturally, part of the attraction is to be at sea at a particularly agreeable time of the year, breaking the journey by visiting some of the jewels of the Mediterranean coastline.

*But there the comparison with a conventional cruise ends. For we make no apology for the scholarly emphasis of these sea-borne tours, which return unashamedly to the century-old tradition of high-brow cruising.*

In place of guides we have lecturers. We use this term because it stresses their primary role. They are professional academics, writers and curators, and the information they impart is designed to enthrall with insight, analysis and narrative.

*On each cruise, there will be at least four of these world-renowned experts, and*

*their talks will take place both on the ship and ashore.*

Each itinerary has a meticulously planned theme. One of the five cruises, for example, is entitled The Romans In Africa, and explores the great ruined cities along the coasts of Tunisia and Libya, where the remains are as spectacular and unspoilt as those of any area in the Mediterranean.

*Another cruise that goes to Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta has as its theme In Pursuit Of Caravaggio. As befits an artist of somewhat volcanic temperament, there are also opportunities to observe Vesuvius, Stromboli and Etna.*

The Matisse Cruise begins in Málaga and finishes in Nice. This tour takes in the sites and scenes which inspired some of the greatest art of the twentieth century, and includes visits to twenty-five world-famous collections of modern painting and sculpture.

*Then there's Classical Civilisations Of The Aegean, which affords a chronological view of the development of the eastern part of the Mediterranean, from the Minoans to the Byzantines.*

The final cruise in the series is devoted to Ancient Greek Philosophy. This stimulating introduction to the foundations of Western thought aims to mingle the Apollonian with the Dionysian by including two experts on Greek wine among the lecturers.

*The ships selected for the sailings are both small but extremely well-appointed vessels. Pleasingly, you'll find no casino, no disco, no cabaret and definitely no piped music. Bars remain open till the early hours, but the main source of evening entertainment is conversation with your lecturers and like-minded travellers.*

In short, the purpose of these cruises is very much as we say at the front of our brochure:

*Not only to look but to see, not only to learn but to understand, not merely to enjoy but to be moved, enlightened, thrilled.*

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