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WINTER 2015 | 16

## FOREWORD

t is my privilege, as the incoming Vice-Principal for Philanthropy and Advancement and Executive Director of Development and Alumni, to welcome you to the winter 2015/16 edition of Edit. I hope you agree that it provides fascinating examples of the remarkable feats and contributions made to both the University and wider society by Edinburgh graduates. Our feature on Greek alumni (page 10) highlights the international impact of our graduates, while 'The community connection' (page 12) examines the ways the University gives back to our host city, which remains home to a good number of you. Music features prominently in this edition: renowned classical composer Thea Musgrave is interviewed by fellow New York-based alumna Anastasia Mills Healy (page 8); we meet Alison Kinnaird (page 24), who is a leading exponent of the Scottish harp as well as an internationally renowned glass artist; and on our front cover and centre spread we showcase two stunning examples of the University's collection of historical instruments. We hope you'll visit *Edit* online to hear audio clips, and while there you explore our recent monthly digital supplements (see page 28). Finally, I look forward to hearing your views - and your stories - and meeting many of you in person over the coming months and years.

### Chris Cox

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This publication is available in alternative formats on request





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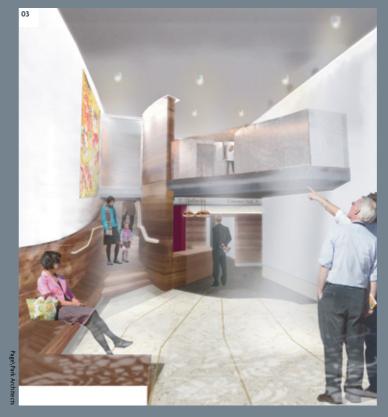
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## **UPDATE**

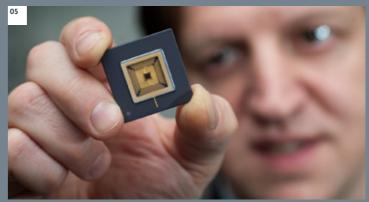












## RESTORED MCEWAN HALL WILL FULFIL ORIGINAL VISION FOR UNIVERSITY AND CITY

The iconic McEwan Hall, scene of graduations, exams and other unforgettable events for more than a century, is undergoing major redevelopment work.

The hall, built between 1888 and 1897 through the largest single private donation in the University's history, from the brewer Sir William McEwan, has long been in need of repair, and while undertaking those works the University is restoring the building to its original status as a major asset for both the University and the city of Edinburgh.

The first stages of work during 2015 included the restoration of external stonework, improvements to the building's foundations and the remedying of damp problems at ground level. What was previously the basement will be opened up to create a new entrance hall and visitor spaces, which will have a

modern glazed entrance pavilion within a new circular amphitheatre. A new corner stairwell will provide access to all levels for the first time.

"This sensitive restoration project will recapture the building's former glory to create an incredible venue at the heart of the University's estate." savs Gary Jebb. Director of Estates. "Continued investment in our estate is vital to provide outstanding facilities for students, staff and the wider community."

The redevelopment addresses longstanding issues that have left the building underutilised, including limited accessibility. New ventilation and heating systems are being installed to improve both efficiency and comfort for the building's users. Better humidity control will also help preserve the hall's celebrated organ, which underwent a major restoration in 2014.

Bristo Square was closed in 2015 for relandscaping. This will include tree planting, more social space and improved accessibility. The monument outside the hall, which commemorates its opening in 1897, has been temporarily removed, to be restored and returned when the work is complete. Graduations in 2015 took place in Edinburgh's Usher

Hall, as they will in 2016.

The restoration project is due to be completed in early 2017, at a cost of £33 million. A campaign to raise funds to contribute to the costs has been launched, with the opportunity for supporters to have their names permanently recognised in the fabric of the building.



More information edin.ac/fundraising-projects

### D BOLLYWOOD **STAR GETS NEW COLLEGE** DANCING

**Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh** Khan got a packed New College Assembly Hall audience on its feet when he broke into his famous Lungi Dance after giving a public lecture in October.

Khan – known as the "king of Bollywood" - received an honorary doctorate in recognition of his humanitarianism and global reach as an actor. His charitable work has included bringing solar power to rural villages and creating a children's hospital ward. After speaking of the strong links between the University and India, he performed the dance from his film Chennai Express, to the delight of the audience, which included many South Asian students.



Ceremony, speech and dance videos: edin.ac/dr-srk

### ST CECILIA'S HALL REVITALISED FOR GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS

One of the University's hidden treasures, St Cecilia's Hall, is being reinvigorated to reflect its status as Scotland's oldest purpose-built concert venue and home to a globally important collection of historical musical instruments.

Now nestled between the bars and restaurants of Edinburgh's Cowgate, St Cecilia's Hall was built in 1763. In its recent history as part of the University, it has been home to a unique collection of instruments, and its oval-shaped auditorium has hosted many classical concerts.

A £6.5 million project to restore and improve the building will enable the long-term preservation of the collection and create a truly public venue and museum. Refurbished

## galleries will provide a fitting home for more than 800 items from 5,500

Concert Hall collections. "St Cecilia's Hall will be the centre for excellence for the display, study, performance and enjoyment of historic musical instruments," says

Jacky MacBeath, Head of Museums.

in the St Cecilia's Hall and Reid

The hall will re-open in autumn 2016 with a programme of concerts and other events.

### QUEST FOR MEMORIES

The University is seeking oral histories of St Cecilia's Hall.
The team would especially love memories of the venue as a dance hall and concert hall in the 1940s to 1960s. Please email: is-crc@ed.ac.uk

### 150 YEARS OF **SPORTING SUCCESS**

**Edinburgh University Sports Union** is marking its 150th anniversary in 2016 with a series of celebrations, including an alumni weekend.

Many of the University's sports clubs – of which there are 64 – will host alumni events over 5-6 March, and there will be a ball at Teviot House.

In 2014/15 the University gained its best ever ranking among the UK's higher education institutions, coming third out of nearly 200, and scoring points across 87 sports.

Sporting staff and students are looking forward to the 2016 Olympic Games when several alumni and students are in contention for medals, including Katherine Grainger, Calum Tait, Corrie Scott, Andy Burns, Sarah Adlington and Eilidh Child.

More information www.ed.ac.uk/sports-union

### SPIN-OUTS **RECORD**

The University has created a record number of spin-outs and start-ups in the latest academic year.

Students and staff created 44 start-ups and three spin-outs, bringing the total number of companies formed in the past five years to 184.

"Edinburgh is emerging as the largest technology hub outside London, and at the heart of that phenomenon is the University and its enterprise scene," says Grant Wheeler, Head of Company Formation at Edinburgh Research and Innovation.

An independent study recently found that the University of Edinburgh contributes £3.3 billion to the UK economy each year. The report, by Biggar Economics, takes account of factors including the effect of degrees on alumni.



More information edin.ac/start-up-prizes

## **UPDATE**

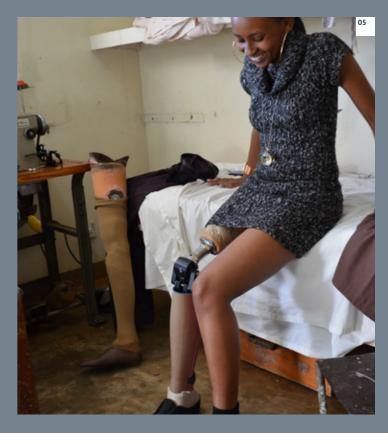












## TAKE A BIG LEAP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

If a leap year can be considered to provide a bonus day, how to put it to good use? The University's Big Leap campaign encourages students, staff and alumni to do something extraordinary with their extra 24 hours, by raising money for good causes while also having fun.

The University has organised several mass-participation events, including a fire walk, a record-attempt bake sale, concerts and dances, but participants are also encouraged to organise their own events in support of the Big Leap appeal.

As a charity, the University is putting forward six of its own projects that benefit the local community or wider society as suggested beneficiaries of the Big Leap though the campaign is about raising funds for any good cause, not just the University's projects.

The six "spotlight" causes offer a wide choice, and many fundraisers

may have a personal reason for supporting one or other of them. The six are: Access to Sport, the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic, the Free Legal Advice Centre, the Hope Park Counselling Service, the Muir Maxwell Epilepsy Centre, and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

"The hope is that people who have never thought of charitable donations to the University beyond an awareness of student bursaries will think 'actually, free legal advice, active health, or animal welfare does mean something to me'," says Gordon Cox, Head of Integrated Fundraising.

The University aims to set a Guinness World Record for the biggest cake bake – the most cakes ever made for a single fundraising cake sale. The cake sale will take place on the "leap day" itself, 29 February, but other events take place throughout the year. Participants in the Edinburgh and London

marathons, plus the annual Texas Scramble golf tournament in Ballater, Aberdeenshire, will devote their efforts to the Big Leap.

Support offered to those raising funds for University causes includes advice, online promotion and a fundraising pack, including sponsor forms. Stories of those dedicating their time to the Big Leap will be shared in a supporters' section of the Big Leap web pages.

"If people can encourage friends and family to sponsor them and do something unique and fun, it can raise awareness and add up to a lot of money," says Mr Cox. "It really will help people all around the world."



More information www.ed.ac.uk/big-leap

### CANADA'S FIRST SCIENCE MINISTER

Kirsty Duncan (PhD Geography 1993) has been appointed Canada's first Minister of Science in the new government elected in November.

Dr Duncan won a third term as Liberal MP for Etobicoke North, Toronto, in the general election, and was appointed to the new cabinet post by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

After her Edinburgh PhD, Dr Duncan taught at three universities in Canada, and was lead author for North America on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Dr Duncan featured in Edinburgh Experience in the winter 2013/14 edition of Edit, saying: "I loved my time at Edinburgh, my first-class professors, and my friends, many of whom I am still in touch with today."



Online profile at edin.ac/kirsty-duncan

### EDINBURGH AT **CORE OF DATA SCIENCE GROUP**

Edinburgh is one of five universities selected to form the Alan Turing Institute that aims to keep the UK at the forefront of data science.

The Institute, which was officially launched in November, is led by Edinburgh alumnus and former lecturer Professor Andrew Blake (PhD Artificial Intelligence 1984). It is a joint venture between the universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford and Warwick, University College London and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Among the first work of the Institute is a collaboration between computer maker Cray and the EPSRC using ARCHER, the UK's largest research supercomputer, which is housed at the University of Edinburgh.



Alan Turing Institute: turing.ac.uk

### 04 CLOONEY **POPS IN FOR A SANDWICH**

A small Edinburgh café that helps homeless people had a superstar moment one lunchtime in November when George Clooney dropped in, following an invitation from its co-founder, Josh Littlejohn (MA Economics and Politics 2009).

The café gives all its profits to homeless people, and operates a "suspended" coffee system, where customers can pay for a hot drink or food for a homeless person. A quarter of the workforce are formerly homeless.

Hundreds of people gathered at the café in Rose Street, Edinburgh, to see the film star, who is also co-founder of the humanitarian charity Not on Our Watch. Clooney later spoke at the Scottish Business Awards in Edinburgh, which were also founded by Mr Littlejohn.

### **PRINTING LOW-COST PROSTHETICS**

A company founded by Paul Fotheringham (BSc Computer Science and Management Science 2000) is using 3D printing to make low-cost bespoke prosthetic limbs in the developing world.

3D Life Prints uses portable scanners to record the shape of an amputee's stump, and manufactures perfectly fitting, simple artificial limbs using 3D printing. A prosthetic hand, which can grip using a bicycle brake-cable mechanism, operated by moving the opposite shoulder, can be produced for \$50.

3D Life Prints has worked with amputees in Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, South Sudan and Myanmar. It has fitted more than 150 prosthetics. The company also makes anatomical medical models in the UK

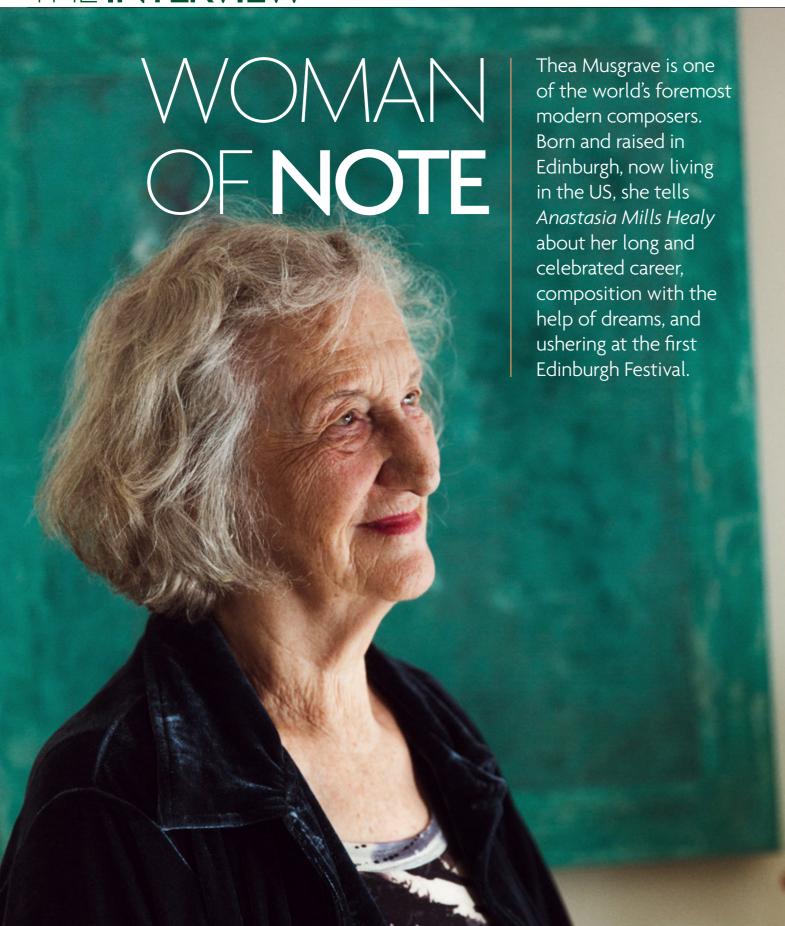
### **ALUMNI DOMINATE GAELIC AWARDS**

Edinburgh alumni have taken several prizes in Scotland's second Gaelic Awards, which promote Gaelic culture.

Dr John MacInnes (MA 1953, PhD 1975) took the Best Contribution Award. Dr MacInnes, a retired researcher and lecturer at the University, is an internationally renowned collector of songs and stories in the Gaelic language and tradition.

Edit Wenelius (MSc Celtic and Scottish Studies 2015) and Jake King (MA 1997, PhD 2008), were joint winners of the Community, Heritage & Tourism Award; Liam Crouse (MA Celtic & Archaeology 2012) won the International Award; and Ceitidh Smith (MA Scottish Ethnology & Celtic 2008) won the Learner Award. The University implemented its Gaelic Language Plan in 2013.

## THE **INTERVIEW**



I had a dream.
While I was
conducting,
a player
suddenly stood
up and kind of
defied me.

THEA MUSGRAVE BMUS 1950

Let's begin with your time at the University of Edinburgh. You are from Edinburgh, correct?

I lived in Edinburgh, so I went to the University. But I'd also been taking piano lessons from one of the professors there. One of the most famous teachers at Edinburgh in those days was a man called Donald Francis Tovey, who I never met because he died, but the person I took piano lessons from was his assistant so I felt that I knew him through her. He is one of my gods. I read absolutely everything he ever wrote.

There was a very small but very good faculty. Classes were usually three or four people so we had very individual attention. I studied counterpoint with Hans Gál who was not such a well-known composer but he was somebody that Tovey brought over; Mary Grierson I think taught harmony. It was really wonderful.

The music department was right by the medical school. I actually started in the medical school – I thought I was going to do medicine but music was my love so I went to music.

LISTEN ONLINE www.edit.ed.ac.uk

What are your fondest memories about your time as an Edinburgh student?

The first Edinburgh Festival, which was in 1947. Students at the University were allowed to be ushers at the chamber music concerts. I had very little money

in those days, and I got in to hear

a lot of wonderful recitals.

The other thing that I'm very grateful for is that when I had done my degree I thought it would be really wonderful to go to Paris to study with Nadia Boulanger, who was the famous teacher in those days. Mary Grierson wrote to Clifford Curzon who was a well-known pianist and put me in touch. So it was through her that I got to Paris. I had a scholarship through the University.

Could you characterise your experience with Boulanger — how it affected your career?

It was absolutely vital. In a way it was complementary to what I learned from Tovey's teachings. I learned from Tovey what we call long-term harmonic planning — planning of a tonality through a whole work — and all his wonderful analyses of works.

Boulanger was a details person.
Absolutely everything had to be perfect. One wonderful thing she said was, when a really good jeweller makes a really beautiful ring of course it looks beautiful on top, and if you turn it over and look underneath it's also beautiful. In other words, things had to be perfectly crafted.

When you have an inspiration, how do you work?

You have to have a start, which is often very sudden. For example, I got a commission from the BBC to write something for the Proms. I said to Peter [husband Peter Mark, violist and opera conductor]: "I can do this piece if you give me a title." He thought for 10 seconds and said: "Loch Ness." I said: "That's it, now I can write the piece."

Right away I had a vision of seeing Loch Ness — the mist on it and then a monster. Who's going to enact the

monster? The tuba. I had the piece as a dramatic outline right off. There's a sort of energy that gets you going, but not necessarily programmatic like that.

In the mid-1960s one night I had a

dream. While I was conducting, a player suddenly stood up and kind of defied me. Then a couple of players stood up. I was taken aback and unnerved. That night I was out with some friends and told them about the dream. We all had a good laugh and I thought that was the end of it. The next morning in the mail I got a commission from Birmingham to write an orchestra piece and my dream became that piece, *Concerto for Orchestra*.

How did *Mary, Queen of Scots* come about?

A I'm the only person who could possibly write that because I'm a woman, I studied in France and I am Scottish!

Actually, it happened because Peter Hemmings, who was head of Scottish Opera at that time, commissioned several composers to write an opera. There's a famous opera called *Maria Stuarda*, which is written about Mary's later life. I wanted to write about when she was in Edinburgh, when she first arrived back from France as a widow of the Dauphin.

Let's talk about February 2014 – the BBC's Total Immersion day devoted to your work.

That was an incredible

experience. There was a wonderful conductor I had not met, Martyn Brabbins. They did the Horn Concerto, which was written for a wonderful horn player called Barry Tuckwell.

There's a soloist who stands beside the conductor and doesn't move but the horns from the orchestra move halfway through the piece and go out into the hall. When we did the performance at the Proms, which I conducted with Barry playing, in the rehearsal he disappeared suddenly. When he came back a little out of breath I said, "Oh my goodness, Barry are you okay?" And he said, "Yes, I was just checking that there's time for the horn players in the Albert

Hall to cover these big distances in the time that's allotted in the music."

I know you can't talk about what you might be working on now, but...

When I'm working on something I never talk to anybody about it except the people that it's for because it takes away the freshness and the energy. Once it's finished I bore everybody silly.

I had two very exciting premieres in 2015. One was called *Voices of Our Ancestors*, inspired by poetry from several thousand years ago. That was done in July in London at St Bride's, a wonderful church. The other one was for the Science Museum in London – they commissioned composers to create music for rooms that would be recorded and put on earphones. I wrote a piece called *Power Play*: I had the big opening room with big wheels and big machinery. That premiered in October.



Anastasia Mills Healy (Junior Year Abroad 1989) is a writer, editor and communications professional living

in the greater New York City area. She spent a year studying English and Scottish Literature at Edinburgh when a student at Tulane University, New Orleans.

I learned from
Tovey what
we call longterm harmonic
planning —
planning of a
tonality through
a whole work.

77

Bryan Sheffield



My studies in Edinburgh equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to do the things I wanted back in Greece.

XENIA PAPASTAVROU MA PHILOSOPHY AND ANCIENT GREEK 1998 enia Papastavrou and
Demetrios latrides have
very different academic and
professional backgrounds, but one
important thing in common: the two
Edinburgh alumni have been making
a difference in their home country,
Greece, as it continues to deal with
its political and economic crisis.

Xenia, the founder of the innovative non-profit group Boroume, is helping provide meals to thousands of Greeks suffering from food insecurity; Demetrios, who has spent much of his career in government and other public sector roles, has helped a new generation of innovative Greek farmers thrive against the odds, in a barren economic environment.

Xenia founded Boroume, which means "We can" in Greek, in 2011 after working for more than 12 years as a senior editor at a large media group. Boroume is a non-profit organisation committed to reducing food waste, by acting as a bridge between those who have food to spare and those who need it.

"We save and donate food that would otherwise end up in the garbage, and we do it without storing, transporting or delivering it," Xenia explains. "We operate as a virtual food bank and this ensures that we can have maximum impact with the lowest operating cost. For every euro we get from donations, we provide 10 meals."

Boroume had a modest start, initially connecting two bakeries with one soup kitchen. But as the crisis deepened, its web-based network of donors and recipients grew fast. Boroume is now offering more than 11,000 meals a day across the country. Beneficiaries include more than 1,000 welfare organisations and municipal services.

"Boroume has saved and donated more than five million meals since it began," Xenia says.

Xenia has bittersweet feelings about Boroume's success. The growing demand for its services is partly explained by the increased recognition of its work. But it also reflects the bleak living conditions of millions of Greeks. Food insecurity is a major aspect of a crisis that has cost Greece more than a quarter of its economic output since 2008, condemning more than one in four working-age people to unemployment. According to the

latest survey by UNICEF, 40 per cent of Greek children are living in poverty.

"My studies in Edinburgh equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to do the things I wanted back in Greece. And my readings and experiences helped shape the person I am today," says Xenia.

One particular influence stands out. "At one point we studied Plato. And learned that social communities are built when people realise they are not self-sufficient. This is what is happening today in Greece. People no longer feel self-sufficient and seek cooperation and solidarity."

Soup kitchens and growing poverty are also the feature of the Greek crisis that stirs Demetrios latrides the most. Demetrios, who graduated in Law in 1997, cannot help but compare this predicament with how things were in Greece as recently as 15 years ago.

In 2001, at the age of 29, he completed his army service and joined the Olympics 2004 Organising Committee. Back then, Greece was thriving. In 2002, the euro replaced the drachma and a period of rapid economic growth, increased incomes

and general optimism was under way. Two years later, Demetrios was part of the success of the Olympics' homecoming, running an Olympics venue and managing a team of 1,200 staff, volunteers and contractors.

After the Olympics, Demetrios took up senior posts at the Hellenic Parliament, Greece's national broadcaster and the ministries of health, defence and foreign affairs.

Then, in 2010, he saw the miracle collapse, when Greece was cut off from international credit markets and was forced to ask for a bailout from its European partners and the International Monetary Fund in exchange for tough austerity measures and reforms. "The shock was violent," Demetrios recalls.

Before returning to the private sector a year ago, Demetrios was Special Secretary for Community Resources and Infrastructure, within Greece's Ministry of Rural Development and Food. During his 18 months there, he oversaw the distribution of €1.3 billion in funding, increasing the take-up rates of EU cohesion funds by more than 600 per cent. As special secretary, Demetrios identified the growing desire of

young Greeks to go back to working the land. He initiated the Young Farmers' Agriculture Programme, which gave working capital to aspirant farmers and start-ups. More than 11,000 men and women gained a job through the programme.

He says the key to success was cutting red tape and adopting a hands-on approach. "We identified the problems, and then swiftly solved them."

Demetrios is the president of the University of Edinburgh Greek Alumni Association. "Edinburgh taught me how to think out of the box," he says.

And his Edinburgh years have brought an additional benefit: the apparent omnipresence of Edinburgh alumni. "When I negotiated with the European Commission, for example, being an Edinburgh graduate proved vital. We spoke the same language, and many EU officials were fellow alumni," he recalls.

Demetrios sees an uphill road for the Greek economy, but is confident that Greece can be transformed in the coming years. "I believe that if we work hard, Greece will finally become be a turnaround story." •

### TACKLING CRISIS WITH CONFIDENCE

The Greek Alumni Association is one of 16 active alumni groups across continental Europe, part of our community of more than 200,000 alumni throughout the world.



### **DEMETRIOS IATRIDES**

Demetrios latrides has a BA in Economics and International Relations from Brown University in the US, an LLB from Edinburgh, and an MSc and MBA from the Athens University of Economics and Business. His early career

was in finance in Greece and the UK, before joining the Organising Committee for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, first as Sports, Finance and Human Resources Manager and, later, as Venue Director.

He has served as adviser in the Greek Parliament, in the Public Broadcasting Company and as special adviser to the Ministers of Health, Foreign Affairs and the National Defence. Between 2013 and 2015 he was Special Secretary for Community Resources and Infrastructure of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.



### XENIA PAPASTAVROU

Xenia Papastavrou has an MA in Philosophy and Ancient Greek from Edinburgh, an MSc in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Diploma in Creative Writing from the UK's Open University.

She has held senior editorial roles in magazine publishing, and until recently taught the core Theory of Knowledge subject to International Baccalaureate students at the Moraitis School in Athens. She recently joined the Bodossaki Foundation, a Greek organisation that seeks and distributes funds for public good.

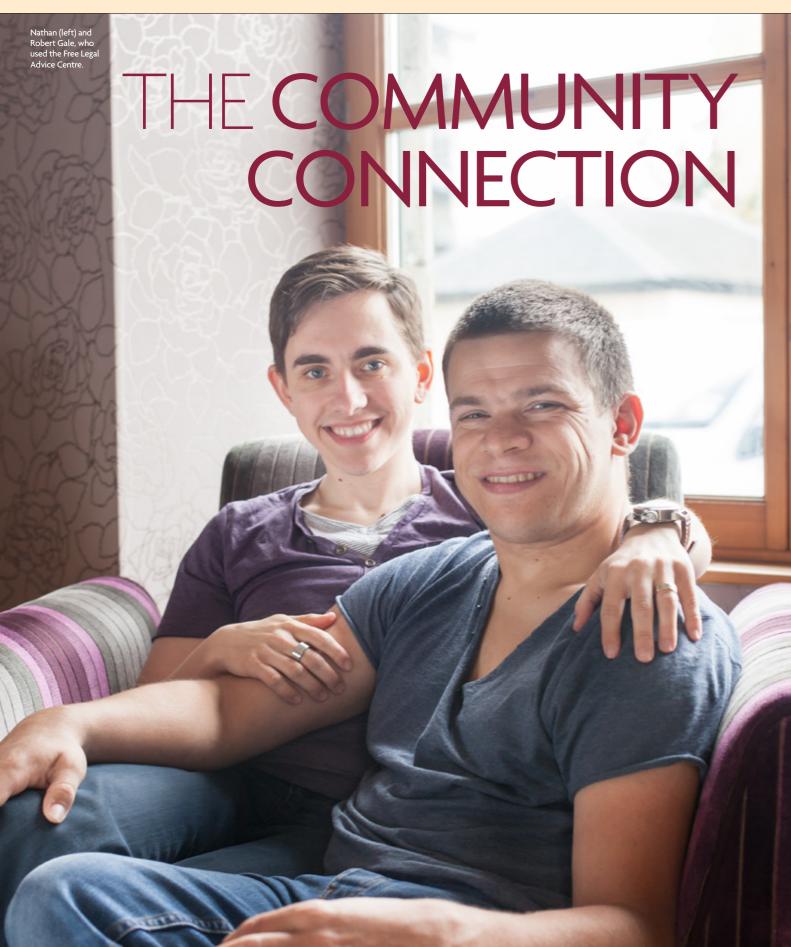
In 2011 Xenia founded Boroume, a non-profit group connecting unwanted food with local demand for food. Boroume has enabled the supply of more than five million meals to date.



### GIORGOS CHRISTIDES

Giorgos Christides has a journalism and communication degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and an MSc in European and International Politics from Edinburgh. He is currently

studying for a PhD on the Greek and Eurozone debt crisis at Aristotle University. He is a correspondent for the German newspaper and website *Der Spiegel* and a regular contributor to BBC World Service, for both radio and online news. He is a former economics editor of the Greek newspaper *Makedonia*. He has worked as a translator for three major Greek publishers.



The University's impact is often considered in an international context. *Claire Simpson* looks closer to home to explore the mutually beneficial relationship with the local community of which staff, students and many alumni are members.

Thanks to the wonderful staff and students who run FLAC we were able to seek justice.

NATHAN GALE
DIPLOMA IN
OFESSIONAL LEGAL

hen Robert and Nathan
Gale had some good news
to celebrate, they did
what any other couple would do and
hit the town to enjoy a few drinks.
Except their night out in Glasgow
came to an abrupt end when the
pair were refused entry to a popular
nightclub, one they'd enjoyed visiting
many times before.

They weren't wearing the wrong shoes. They weren't displaying the signs of too much alcohol consumption, or threatening to start a fight with anyone. In fact they weren't breaking any rules at all. Robert and Nathan were told they couldn't come into this particular night spot because they were disabled and the venue didn't have any facilities to accommodate wheelchair users.

The couple tried to persuade staff to reconsider. Robert, who has cerebral palsy, crawled up the stairs to prove that he didn't need a wheelchair ramp, and after door staff refused to let Nathan take his wheelchair to him, Robert took up residence on the club floor. The nightclub staff responded by calling the police and the Gales never did get to enjoy those celebratory drinks.

However, Nathan, who is an equality campaigner and a graduate of the University of Edinburgh's Diploma in Professional Legal Practice, quickly recognised that the actions of the nightclub were not just unfair but potentially in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

Nathan's time as an Edinburgh diploma student had given the graduate the opportunity to volunteer with the Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC), a student-led service at the University that offers free legal help and advice to members of the local Edinburgh community. It was FLAC Nathan turned to

FLAC has been operating at the University since 2007 and is run by students, with support from Law School staff and representatives from some of Edinburgh's legal firms. It is not only a source of quality free legal advice for members of the public who may not otherwise be able to access such help, but also gives Diploma students the opportunity to develop their legal skills and experience.

When Nathan brought their story to FLAC, the centre's volunteers referred the case to the Faculty of Advocates' Free Legal Services Unit (FLSU). The Gales decided to take legal action against G1 Group, owners of the night club, represented by FLSU advocate Russell Bradley with support from FLAC student volunteers David Gray and Kirsty McGeough acting as instructing solicitors.

"The support we received from FLAC was incredible," says Nathan. "If they had not given us such encouragement I honestly don't think we would have pursued our discrimination case. Thanks to the wonderful staff and students who run FLAC my partner and I were able to seek justice for the terrible discrimination that we suffered."

Their case turned out to be a landmark one. It is one of a small number of civil cases seen in

Scotland under the Equality Act relating to access to commercial premises for disabled people, and they won. The Glasgow Sheriff Court ruled that the couple had been discriminated against and G1 was ordered to pay £2,000 in compensation, after the nightclub owner's legal representatives agreed to the decree.

Of course not all cases or issues that are brought to FLAC are as high profile, but the story demonstrates that the guidance the student volunteers are able to provide can make a critical difference to individuals who may have limited access to legal services.

In a typical year the Centre will see more than 180 clients who present a variety of legal issues, most commonly housing problems and family law disputes. The Centre also provides guidance on debt, consumer law, employment, IT, planning and wills.

FLAC provides important training for Edinburgh Diploma students who are en route to qualifying as lawyers. FLAC Director Rebecca MacKenzie (LLB 2003), who also oversees the provision of the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at the University, is a passionate advocate for student involvement in the Centre to help develop civic-minded legal professionals.

"I am a great believer that pro bono work should be promoted as a professional value and students should be encouraged to develop a sense of duty to ensure access to justice not just at university but also

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION CONTINUED

MORE ONLINE www.edit.ed.ac.uk









ways as it can.

This connection between legal training and community outreach is part of the wider context of the University's place in the city of Edinburgh. With 35,000 students, 13,000 staff and 37,000 graduates having an Edinburgh postcode, people linked directly to the University amount to a substantial proportion of the Scottish capital's 490,000 population. The University of Edinburgh, while projecting an international image, has always played a central role in the life of its host city. Its staff, students and alumni have a profound impact locally that is perhaps sometimes overshadowed by achievements on the global stage.

A service run by Dr Andrew Gardiner (BVM&S Clinical Veterinary Studies

Andrew, a Senior Lecturer and researcher at Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, first got involved with volunteering when he was a veterinary student at Edinburgh. At weekends he helped at the animal charity PDSA.

"I'm really keen on primary care and community animal health and welfare, and also animals and humans on the periphery, however you see that, as well as social accountability and how that translates into veterinary medicine and looking at the human-animal bond," he says.

So when the Vet School was bequeathed an endowment with the condition that the money should be used to help look after animals belonging to homeless people, Andrew was a strong candidate to take a project forward. Around the same time, staff from Dunedin Harbour hostel approached the Vet

School seeking advice on handling the pets of the hostel's homeless residents. Andrew responded by setting up a project to run regular vet clinics at the hostel.

Dunedin Harbour is one of only two

Edinburgh homeless hostels that allow pets, and Andrew was already familiar with the homeless centre through a documentary Sleeping Ruff created by two of his friends, Susi Arnott and Stephen Blakeway. The film charts the close bond between Edinburgh's rough sleepers and their pets, and highlights that for many homeless individuals their pets offer companionship, security and a sense of purpose in what can be an isolated existence.

Unfortunately, this attachment to their animals can limit the options for shelter for many homeless people. The vast majority of homeless hostels in the UK refuse to take animals. Dunedin is an exception, and Andrew's clinics play an important role in supporting the hostel to continue this policy.

Andrew visits on a regular basis to deliver preventative veterinary services such as vaccination, worming and micro-chipping, as well as giving advice on animal health, welfare and behaviour. His colleague Amy Jennings runs similar clinics at another hostel in the city centre.

Andrew is keen to integrate his outreach work into his teaching. and students often join him at the hostel clinics, and are now working with him to expand the service by offering additional pop-up clinics.

His connections to East Lothian charity Fostering Compassion have opened up further opportunities for students to get involved with volunteering. Fostering Compassion works with at-risk and vulnerable children to encourage them to develop empathy and compassion for animals by offering animal- and nature-themed workshops that run throughout the year.

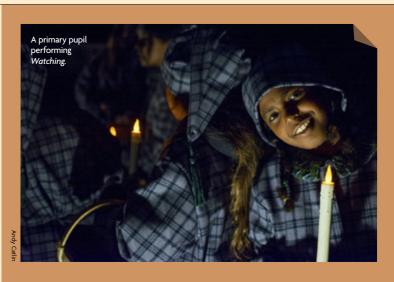
Recently, a group of veterinary students designed and hosted a

workshop at the clinical skills lab at the Dick Vet in Easter Bush.

"It was one of the best workshops we've had and the children had a ball," says Fostering Compassion founder Lesley Winton. "To be able to work with the veterinary students in this way is an invaluable opportunity for the children that they wouldn't ordinarily get."

For Andrew, who was the 2015 recipient of the Prinicipal's Medal for Service to the Community, being involved in the community in this way is an important role for any university.

He says: "We've got some of the world's leading specialists here, in all sorts of disciplines, so I think it's good that the Vet School works at the grass roots level as well. I feel that's part of what a university is about and any institution should be engaging with its local community in as many ways as it can."



Staff and students participate in countless projects that "give back" to the University's host city. Among the more well known and permanently established are the Hope Park Counselling Centre and the Music in the Community programme.

SEE ALSO 'THE BIG LEAP' PAGE 6



We were able to use anaesthetic equipment that is generally used when operating on dogs.

DR RICHARD REARDON





t was a proud moment for Donna Riley when Rio, her two-year-old miniature Shetland pony, won a rosette at Edinburgh's Royal Highland Show in June 2015. Fifth out of 13 in his class of coloured ponies placed Rio outside the best of the best that day, but the award represents a milestone for the pony who, after undergoing emergency surgery at the University of Edinburgh's Equine Hospital, had to fight that little bit harder to reach "show quality" status than his fellow competitors.

Born near Carlisle, in the north-west of England, Rio developed a serious hind-leg infection almost immediately after his birth and, without treatment, would have been permanently lame and left with severe chronic arthritis. After an emergency referral from the local vet, Donna rushed the four-day-old foal and his mother Floss to the University's Easter Bush campus, just outside Edinburgh, where experts at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (R(D)SVS) quickly assessed and prepped Rio for surgery.

The specialists confirmed that Rio's infection was probably due to a lack of colostrum, the antibody-rich milk produced by mares after giving

birth. Colostrum helps boost the immune system of new-born foals, but because Floss had been suffering from colic, Rio was unable to get enough colostrum to help fight off infections.

"It was all rather emotional," Donna recalls of the two-hour journey north across the border. "My husband, who is a marine engineer, was away with work so my friend Emma came with me to take Rio and Floss up to Edinburgh."

The mother-of-two endured a nervous but short wait while the vets went to work. First, they took ultrasound images and X-rays in the Equine Hospital's diagnostic imaging suite, before analysing fluid samples from Rio's joints in the onsite laboratory and preparing the equine theatre for surgery.

The vets performed two operations on Rio – the first on the evening of his arrival to flush out his joints, and the second some days later to remove infected tissue from his umbilical area. By further examining culture samples, they were able to determine which specific infection Rio was suffering from, and which antibiotic would best fight it.



Edinburgh's Equine Hospital is one of the few facilities in the UK that is equipped with the expertise and technology to deal with such a complicated and time-sensitive case as Rio's. The close clustering of its imaging suite, laboratories and equine operating theatres enables staff to retrieve results quickly (lab results can be turned around in 15 minutes), and to collaborate on dealing with the challenge of unexpected factors, such as, in Rio's case, his small stature.

"When we arrived, I don't think they realised quite how small Rio was, as I was asked to bring the trailer around as close as possible to the diagnostic imaging suite to save him from having to walk very far," Donna remembers. "He was only about 15 kilos – so about

the size of a small dog – and he ended up just being carried in for imaging in someone's arms."

Rio's tiny lungs would not have coped with the anaesthetics equipment generally used for ponies and horses, and Dick Vet staff had to bring over an anaesthetic machine from the School's adjacent Small Animal Hospital.

Dr Richard Reardon, the equine surgeon who handled Rio's care, says the breadth of experience within the R(D)SVS, and the quick thinking of School staff, ensured the Edinburgh team were able to provide their unique patient with the very best treatment.

"Although we do treat a number of Shetlands, as a miniature Shetland and at just four days old Rio is certainly the smallest foal I have treated," he says. "Fortunately, our specialist anaesthetists have experience covering both the Equine Hospital and the Small Animal Hospital, so were able to use anaesthetic equipment that is generally used when operating on dogs".

"There were also no blankets that would fit Rio's small size, so we got a dog blanket and a dog rug to keep him warm. He certainly became a bit of a star with the students."

Rio and Floss were monitored at the Dick Vet for nearly a month while the foal recovered and started to suckle again from his mother.

Dr Reardon says Floss also captured the hearts of Edinburgh staff. "Some mares can be incredibly protective of their foals, but Floss was exceptionally laid back and a joy to deal with," he says.

Rio is one of around 1,500 referrals that Edinburgh's Equine Hospital receives each year for specialist treatment. This is in addition to the 4.000 appointments made annually by the Dick Vet's first opinion Equine Practice, which involves vets travelling to provide non-hospital treatment to horses in the area. The Vet School also has a Production Animal Service, which includes a farm animal general practice, a Hospital for Small Animals, which accepts referrals from first opinion vets, a small animal general practice and a Rabbit, Exotics and Wildlife Service.

Dr John Keen, Director of the School's Equine Hospital and Practice, says: "As one of the very few large specialist equine referral hospitals, it is not unusual that Rio was referred to us from the north of England. We take in cases from all over Scotland, including the islands, and have also had cases referred to us from the

Specialist treatment offered by the Equine Hospital includes orthopaedics, dentistry, and treatment for heart and lung conditions and, as with Rio, lameness. The Equine Hospital is also one of the few places in the world that has carried out operations to put pacemakers into horses.

As well as high-quality ultrasound that was used for Rio, the Equine Hospital offers every diagnostic imaging technique, including standing MRI and CT scanners, which reduce the risk of having to put horses under general anaesthetic for images to be collected.

"I was incredibly impressed with all that the Equine Hospital was able to do for Rio and the expertise of its staff," Mrs Riley says. "He certainly had a tough start in life but you wouldn't know it. We still call him our wonky donkey, although he's now doing just fine."



Main image: Rio with owner Donna Riley at the 2015 Royal Highland Show.

Below: Rio at the Vet School in 2013, with his mother Floss, Donna and her daughter Megan.

Above: Architect's impression of the new Equine Diagnostic, Surgical and Critical Care Unit.

south of England."



## NEW EQUINE UNIT

An ambitious £3.7 million redevelopment of the Equine Hospital starts in January 2016, for which a £1 million fundraising target has been set. The planned new Equine Diagnostic, Surgical and Critical Care Unit comes in light of a growth of emergency cases and an increased demand for advanced diagnostic and intensive management.

The unit will replace the Equine Hospital's current surgery, adiography and intensive care block, which was last refurbished in 1993.

Teaching will benefit from an overhead viewing area in the theatre suite where students can watch and discuss operations as they are happening. The surgical area will consist of two state-of-the-art theatres with induction and recovery boxes, plus a new standing surgery suite. The suite, which can be used for standing fracture repair and laparoscopy, will reduce the risk of complications associated with general anaesthesia and enable faster recovery times.

The diagnostic and triage area wi be located next to the surgical and critical care areas, reducing the need to move horses around the site

Six stables will be dedicated to equine critical care, including a specialised stall for neonatal foals, which will enable them to remain with the mare



started her new job after graduating with first-class honours in Community Education in July 2015, she closed a circle.

Wendy, a single parent in her forties, is now a carer support worker at an organisation that nearly a decade earlier had helped Wendy herself gain the confidence to re-enter the education system.

The only formal qualifications Wendy previously had were four O-Grades, after a difficult time during her school years.

"My mum and dad divorced when I was 11 and my dad became ill with depression for 18 months, so I was basically his carer for that period," Wendy says.

"At my local comprehensive in Edinburgh I was the fat child with glasses who lived with just her dad – and we lived on benefits. That was how the other kids saw me. The fact that I was able to do academic stuff just meant that I was bullied into doing other people's work. I gave up working hard then because I just wanted to disappear – I didn't want to be noticed."

Art was an interest that persisted. however. Wendy decided that she wanted to be the person who designed and created signs on vans and shops. "I told the careers officer at school. He said that wasn't feasible and that I should just go and train as a florist. That wasn't what I wanted to do – not at all."

On leaving school Wendy earned her living working in bars and restaurants. Later she became a page compositor putting together newspaper pages by cutting and pasting columns of type and pictures, before the days of electronic page make-up. "I was working on the Evening News the night of the Lockerbie bombing in 1988. It was a night I'll never forget – and the one time I actually heard the words, 'Hold the front page," Wendy says.

Today, working for VOCAL, Voice of Carers Across Lothian, it's Wendy's job to ensure that carers have the support and knowledge to access

the help and benefits they need in their roles looking after parents, children and others.

Her university studies reflect her experiences in earlier life. An important part of her degree was a 12,000-word dissertation entitled Hidden Injuries of Class and Gender.

"When I was at school the girls did home economics for the first and second year while the boys did metalwork and woodwork. In a lot of ways things weren't all that different from the way they were for my mother's generation.

> We all supported each other on that degree course. It was terrific.

"The expectation was that the man would be out in the world making a living while the woman was at home budgeting to feed a family. There was basically no expectation about 'getting on' and progressing."

Wendy had her son, Ethan, in her early thirties, and when he was six it became clear that he was having problems dealing with certain social situations and was diagnosed as having Asperger syndrome. Looking after her young son and dealing with his autism became Wendy's full-time occupation.

It was during that period that Wendy became aware of VOCAL and the support it could give her. By the time Ethan was eight, Wendy's ambition to work for a better life for herself and her son led her to study part-time for an HNC at Jewel and Esk College, now part of Edinburgh College. She gained an A grade, and decided to apply to the University of Edinburgh for a full-time degree, even though this meant taking on a loan.

When she was registering as a student in September 2010 Wendy went through her situation and financial details with "a young guy in the University Registry who was just incredibly helpful," she says. "All I know is that his name was Joe, but I'll never forget him."

A month later she was contacted by the University and learnt she'd been selected for a £1,000-a-year bursary known as the Paul Meitner award. Wendy recently met Paul Meitner (MA Economics & History 1982). "He was in Edinburgh on business from his job in London. That £1,000-a-year bursary made all the difference to me – I was glad I was able to tell him that in person."

Wendy's degree took an extra year due to the illness and subsequent death of her father, John, who she says was the "father figure" in Ethan's life. Losing his much-loved granddad just as he went into adolescence was particularly difficult for Ethan.

For Wendy, it was difficult to focus on her dissertation at that point, though she managed with the support of her University friends. "Three of my fellow students came to help me clear my father's house when he died – we all supported each other on that degree course.

Dr Jim Crowther, her dissertation supervisor, suggested she take a year out after her father's death. "Having support and understanding like that made all the difference." Wendy says.

Ethan, now 15, was with Wendy to celebrate her graduation. In spite of his autism he attends mainstream high school and excels in several subjects. "He hopes, one day, to be an architect," says Wendy.

Wendy says her degree, and placements she undertook as part of it, were all about empowerment: empowerment of schoolchildren at Loanhead Primary in Edinburgh, and empowerment of young people and adults within their own communities. She says: "I've learned how to support others to empower themselves, to take control and move themselves forward."



Dr Aileen Ballantyne (MA 1976, MSc 2009, PhD 2014) is an award-winning poet and former journalist.

Having worked as medical correspondent for both the Guardian and the *Sunday Times*, she returned to Edinburgh in 2008 to study creative writing, first at masters level and then completing her PhD in 2014. She now works as a tutor at the University of Edinburgh.

Aileen's poetry has won a number of awards, including first prize in the 2015 Mslexia Poetry Competition for her series Lockerbie, Pan Am Flight 103, and first prize in the short poem category in the 2015 international Poetry on the Lake Festival at Isola san Giulio, Italy. She is currently finalising her first collection of poetry.



Around 4,000 of the University's current 23,000 undergraduate students are aged 21 or over. Wendy Brooks was one of around 150 people aged 40 or over to graduate with an undergraduate degree from the University in the summer of 2015.

## **SNAPSHOT**

This instrument, which might be mistaken for something modern and electronic, is a mute violin made in the early 19th century. The instrument is designed for practising, entirely lacking a sound box. It was bought by John Donaldson, Reid Professor of Music, in 1855, making it one of the founding instruments of the Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments, which today numbers 5,500 items. More than 800 of those items are soon to be on permanent display in St Cecilia's Hall, Scotland's oldest purpose-built concert hall, opened in 1763, which is currently undergoing a £6.5 million redevelopment. Among items in the collection is the baroque guitar photographed on the front cover of Edit, attributed to Matteo Sellas, of Venice, 1640.

MUTED ELEGANCE



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## THE HISTORY MAKERS



1956

### FIRST BRITISH UNIVERSITY TO SET UP A NURSE **TEACHING UNIT**

With support of the Rockefeller Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO) the Nurse Teaching Unit was established within the Faculty of Arts in 1956, based initially in the top flat of 40a George Square. A year later it became known as the Nursing Studies Unit.

# NURSING **AMBITION**

As Nursing Studies at Edinburgh marks 60 years of higher education leadership, *Edit* looks back at some of the milestones and pioneers.

1971

### FIRST NURSING RESEARCH **UNIT AT A BRITISH** UNIVERSITY

In 1971 the Nursing Research Unit was launched at Edinburgh, enabling research into hospital and community patient care, and into the organisational structure of nursing. While the research unit closed in 1994, its effect still resonates. The research strengths of Nursing Studies at Edinburgh were recently acknowledged in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, which judged 83 per cent of its research as world leading or internationally excellent.



2005-2015

### **NURSING STUDIES AT EDINBURGH BEST IN** THE UK

Every year from 2005 to 2015 Nursing Studies at Edinburgh was ranked top in the UK in the respected Guardian University guide's league table for nursing and midwifery. The 2015 study revealed that 97 per cent of students were satisfied with their degree programme overall, while 98.5 per cent were satisfied with

1956

### **ELSIE STEPHENSON APPOINTED FIRST DIRECTOR OF NURSING STUDIES IN EUROPE**

Described in the Journal of Advanced Nursing as "Britain's nursing messiah of the 20th century", Elsie Stephenson became the first Director of the Nursing Studies Unit in 1956. She is among a small number of international figures that have been instrumental in establishing the status of the nursing profession, who include the Scottish born Ethel Bedford Fenwick, who fought for a national register of nurses. Stephenson reportedly decided to become a nurse aged three after her father died in the influenza epidemic



1960 **INTEGRATED DEGREE** 

## (FIVE-YEAR MA)

Under Elsie Stephenson's leadership, the Nursing Studies Unit developed "a system of education and training for women who will later occupy positions of leadership": a two-year certificate or diploma (depending on previous qualifications) in Advanced Nursing Education with Registered Nurse Teacher status. Stephenson was also determined to produce graduate practitioners and in 1960, a five-year integrated degree programme was introduced, with a four-week hospital placement. The degree was a pioneering move by Edinburgh, which was followed by several other universities across the UK during the 1960s.

1962

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADVANCED NURSING STUDIES FOUNDED

The International School was described as "the first of its kind in the world" by the Secretary of the University in 1962. It offered programmes in administration or education, social medicine, nursing and sciences applied to nursing to overseas students, who also took an elective subject and participated in hospital or community field studies. With financial backing from the WHO, the School promoted higher education for nurses on an international level and offered those from developing countries new opportunities. It also enabled the Nursing Studies Unit to establish connections with their nursing organisations around the world.



Visit Edit online to contribute additional entries on our interactive History Makers timeline. edit.ed.ac.uk



1971

### **FIRST PROFESSOR OF NURSING STUDIES IN EUROPE**

In 1968, Margaret Scott Wright, who had carried out research in the Department of Public Health and gained a PhD from the University of Edinburgh with the help of a Boots Scholarship, succeeded Elsie Stephenson as Director of the Nursing Studies Unit. In 1971, Scott Wright became the first Chair in Nursing Studies in Europe. She was also a member of the influential Briggs committee, set up by the UK government in the early 1970s, which recommended better degree preparation for nurses in order to "recruit people with innovative flair and leadership qualities".

1978

### **NURSING RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EDINBURGH GRADUATES**

In 1978 a fund was set up with

a bequest by Elsie Stephenson's husband, William Gardner, to support nursing research, fellowships and activities to further the knowledge and practice of nursing. Since then many scholarships have been awarded to graduates of the University's own Nursing honours degree programme to pursue doctoral studies. In recent years Gardner Scholarship students have undertaken research to develop dementia care strategies, improve the experiences of patients on psychiatric wards and better understand the information needs of cancer patients. These scholars, and others like them, not only develop their own academic careers and often go on to become leaders in their fields, but also make a significant contribution to nursing research and make a difference to patient care.



1983

### **PROFESSOR ANNIE ALTSCHUL**

In 1983 the University marked its 400th anniversary. Nursing Studies joined in the festivities by inviting all of its graduates to enjoy a day in July of memorabilia, discussion groups and a lecture by Professor Annie Altschul, Chair of Nursing Studies at Edinburgh 1976–1983. A renowned writer and conference speaker on the subject of mental health, Professor Altschul was appointed CBE following her retirement in 1983 for her commitment to nursing. During her time at Edinburgh she instigated plans for an innovative joint degree programme, the MSc in Nursing and Education, which went

on to be launched in 1986.



### ONLINE LEARNING **IN AFRICA**

Since 2010 Nursing Studies has been working closely with the University's College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine to develop online undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for the Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN), at the University of Malawi. Edinburgh students, alumni and staff, led by Professors Pam Smith and Tonks Fawcett, have played a key role in the success of the online programmes at KCN. Dr Gladys Msiska (MSc Nursing 2008, PhD 2012) and Elizabeth Chodzaza, PhD candidate, have been involved in developing online resources. As a result of the collaboration between the universities of Edinburgh and Malawi, KCN is now a leader in online learning in sub-Saharan Africa, ultimately enhancing health care in



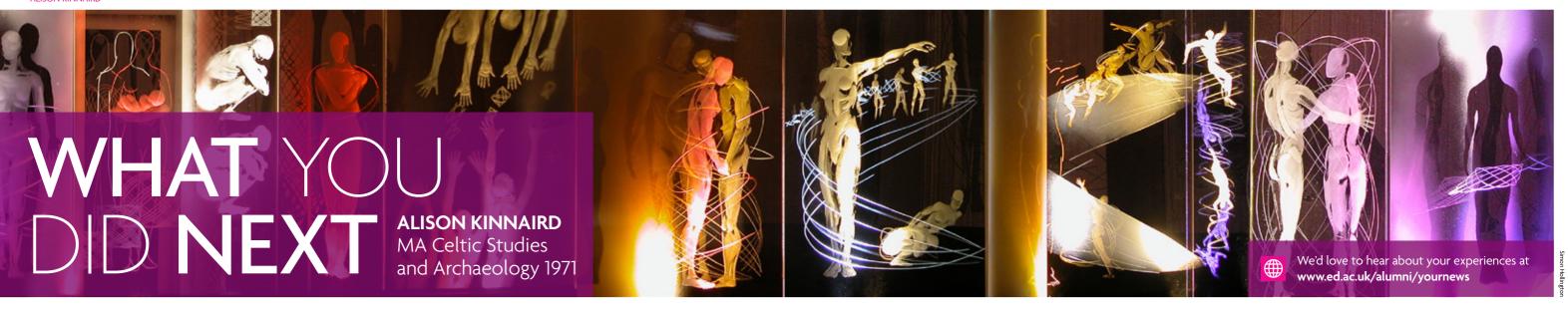
2016

### **EDINBURGH TO HOST ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING'S** INTERNATIONAL **RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

In April 2016 the Royal College of Nursing International Research Conference will be held in Edinburgh to celebrate 60 years of nursing at the University and 100 years of the RCN itself. The historic event will see the University's Pam Smith, Professorial Fellow in Nursing Studies, deliver a keynote speech to the diverse range of clinical and academic researchers invited to attend the conference from around the world.

### **JOIN OUR 60TH CELEBRATIONS**

In November 2016 the University is holding an alumni conference to mark the 60th anniversary of Nursing Studies. The event will celebrate the leaps taken during each of the six decades of our history. To register your interest, email Laura Marshal l.marshall@ed.ac.uk



People said only a few harp tunes survived, but I thought 'good grief it was played for more than 2,000 years'.



## SCOTTISH HARP OR CLÀRSACH?

Alison Kinnaird is careful to talk about the "Scottish harp" rather than use the often-heard Gaelic term clàrsach.

She plays both, but explains that the true clàrsach is a different instrument from what many people may mean when they use the word. A true clàrsach has metal strings, whereas the more commonly played harp – the harp of the east coast and lowlands – has gut strings,

which today are often made of nylon.

Playing the two instruments requires different techniques: the metal strings of the clàrsach are plucked with fingernails, while gut-strung harps are played with the pads of the fingertips.

"They're related but very different," says Alison. "You could be good at one but not the other. It's a bit like the piano and organ."





# THE WHEEL THAT CUTS

Using the ancient intaglio technique, Alison's main engraving tool is a tiny lathe from which a spinning wheel sticks out on a spindle. She brings glass up to the wheel and achieves the marks she wants by moving the glass.

Diamond-edged wheels do the rough work, copper wheels the more detailed stages. Alison feeds the copper wheel with water and



carborundum, a silicon carbide powder. This does the actual cutting, wearing away both the glass and the copper, which needs regular filing to rebuild the desired cutting profile. Near her lathe is a rack of wheels of varying sizes – all steadily shrinking with use. The lathe spindle reaches only 20cm, so for larger works Alison uses a wheel on a flexible hand-held drive, similar to a dentist's drill. CHARLIE BINGHAM | ANDREW LOWNIE

## EDINBURGH **EXPERIENCE**

From artists to zoologists, many graduates view their time at Edinburgh as the formative years of their professional lives. Here are a few of your experiences and updates on recent achievements and successes.

### **CAMERON BROWN**

### **BSC GFOGRAPHY** 2008

I chose Edinburgh because I knew the city was compact and easy to explore while managing to maintain an incredible international buzz.

Memories of university largely revolve around sport and the University Air Squadron. I decided to take up shinty, a sport I had never played, only to end up in A&E in Freshers' week, having used my face rather than my stick to tackle someone. I later got stuck in with the University Rugby Team, regularly running out with the 2nd XV. There is nothing quite like training on a January evening down at Peffermill in the driving wind and hail.

ESUAS, the East of Scotland University Air Squadron, provided my most formative experiences. As a reserve in the RAF I was taught to fly (including aerobatics), went on numerous ski trips and had the opportunity to work at the Royal International Tattoo in the Flight Operations Department every summer.



On leaving University I spent a couple of years working for the charity Christians in Sport, something I had begun to get involved with at Edinburgh. Part of my work was in Kampala, Uganda, which was a truly rewarding time.

My commercial flight training began with six months of ground school followed by 14 exams, something

I am sure I was only able to complete due to the academic experience I had at Edinburgh.

In January 2013 I was awarded a scholarship by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots; my experiences in Uganda and ESUAS warming me to the interview panel. If it wasn't for Edinburgh opening me up to these in the first place,

who knows whether the outcome

This quickly led to another scholarship from the company I had completed my training with, to train as a flight instructor. I instructed for around a year, longing for that door to open into the airline world. Finally it did: I was offered a job with Ryanair

### would have been the same

as a first officer.

## **CLAIRE BROWNIE**

### **BFD PHYSICAL FDUCATION 2009**

I absolutely loved my time at University. I met some of my best friends there and 10 years later they are still my best friends. I had my heart set on going to Edinburgh to be a PE teacher since my second year at secondary school.

My course was very sociable and I got to know all 100 people in my year. This made it very easy for me to settle in. I was also part of the Edinburgh University Netball Team which was a great experience that allowed me to meet people who weren't on my course while developing my skills.

During my summers I had some great experiences including the World Youth Championships in the Cook Islands, a tour to Barbados, Camp America and of course my first holiday with University friends. Without the support of the University I would never have managed to get to the World Youth Championships as they supported me as a bursary athlete.

After leaving university I moved to Glasgow to continue to play netball for Scotland and to start my career as a teacher. For the past five years I have been teaching in secondary



schools and have recently moved to Bath to further pursue my netball career. Edinburgh's Individual Performance Programme enabled me to manage my academic and



sporting commitments and helped me get to where I am now.

While at Edinburgh I played for Scottish Universities, British Universities and Scotland under-19s, under-21s and the senior national squad.

These experiences have led to me competing in the Commonwealth Games and World Championships, two highlights of my life.



CATHERINE RAYNER

If you'd like to share your experiences, we'd love to hear

from you at www.ed.ac.uk/alumni/yournews

When I first came to Edinburgh to find out more about Edinburgh College of Art I was overwhelmed by the city and the college buildings. Luckily ECA is a very friendly place and it didn't take long to make friends and find my way around.

On our course we worked long hours. I think we were all motivated by each other and we were often in the studio at weekends and into the night, by choice. I was in a fantastic year group and most of us are still in touch.

Many of us went on to work in illustration and design, so we often bump in to each other professionally, which is lovely.

If I had to look back and describe what ECA did for me the word I would think of is "time". There was

time to spend on your ideas, with gentle guidance and a nurturing environment. I really enjoyed my time at ECA, but the main thing

for me is that it set up my career. I had been offered a publishing contract before I graduated. I still work with that publisher (among

others). I felt I was nurtured rather than told how to succeed and this made the transition to becoming a professional illustrator less daunting – it seemed like a natural progression. The degree formed a perfect platform for my career, and plenty of hard work, very long hours and determination have got me where I am today.

I have written and illustrated 13 books to date, which have been translated into 35 languages. adapted for theatre, animated, read on CBeebies and won awards. I also exhibit my artwork worldwide.

In 2015 I was appointed Illustrator in Residence at Edinburgh Zoo, and in 2016 we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of my first book, Augustus and His Smile (I can hardly believe it)

To celebrate we are having major exhibitions in London and Edinburgh and special anniversary gold books are being released in the UK and US.



### CHARLIE BINGHAM **BSC ZOOLOGY 2007**

I originally attended Imperial College, but didn't enjoy the course or the social life in London. Most people seemed to come and go, treating the university like a sixth form college. I had visited friends in Edinburgh and was really taken with it, so applied to join in my second year.

This scary decision was one of the best I have ever made. The course was superb, and the circle of friends I made were inspiring and enduring.

I didn't have an easy journey through university, finding it incredibly hard to apply myself academically until relatively late, but the support and encouragement I had from various members of staff was amazing.

After graduating I started work with the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, which had been my dream since the age of seven. I was a PA to Wendy Darke, now head of the unit, and through her I got my first break editorially, as a researcher on the first series of the children's wildlife series Deadly 60.

I later joined Icon Films where I worked on films for National Geographic, Discovery, BBC and Animal Planet, directing on The One Show and River Monsters.

More recently, I made a move to London doing a lot of development work in a bid to gain commissions. I directed three hours for ITV with Julian Clary called Nature Nuts and currently am series director at ITV on a new six-part series with Steve Backshall called Fierce.



### **ANDREW LOWNIE** MSC HISTORY 1989

I had been at school in Edinburgh and first grew to love the city then, exploring it first by foot and then by bicycle. As a result I got to know it very well.

My undergraduate degree was at Cambridge but I was attracted to come back to Edinburgh for my postgraduate degree partly by Professor Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones's course on American Espionage a subject I had become fascinated by at Cambridge after I helped an author research a biography.

My university experience was slightly different to most students as I had a job in publishing in London and was not a full-time student. but I tried to make the most of the University and the city, particularly enjoying the rich cultural life.

Rhodri and I edited a collection of essays based on the work of my fellow MSc students. North American Spies, and I went on to write several books which required frequent trips to Edinburgh including The Edinburgh Literary Companion and a life of John Buchan. I also set up an office in Edinburgh for my literary agency, taking on many Scottish authors.

Rhodri became a friend and is now one of my authors, and my interest in spies has continued – my latest book is Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess. My next is a collection of stories set in Edinburgh. My son is even thinking of applying to the University.

# DIGITAL EDIT

Visit *Edit* online for additional multimedia content plus monthly supplementary stories between magazine editions. You can also comment on any of our stories and contribute to our History Makers timelines.

The digital edition of *Edit*, edit.ed.ac.uk, offers an additional way to enjoy news and features about the University and your fellow alumni. Online we offer video, audio and a greater selection of photographs than is possible in a printed magazine.

Between full editions of *Edit*, we also publish monthly supplements online. Since the summer edition, which was published in digital format only, we have published five supplements. These have featured the three bridges across the Firth of Forth, the history of Informatics at Edinburgh, unique research projects on street dogs in India and red deer on the Isle of Rum, and a podcast about Europe's refugee crisis.

Below we offer a taste of three of our supplements. See them all at edit.ed.ac.uk/contents/issue/2





## SPANNING THE ARTS, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Alumni from across the disciplines tell the stories of their unique connections with the three bridges across the Firth of Forth.

Professor Angelo Maggi (PhD Architecture 2003) shares his fascination with the photographer Evelyn George Carey, who documented the construction of the Forth Bridge in the 19th century. Professor Maggi's students in Venice have reconstructed the "human cantilever", a celebrated demonstration of the engineering principles of the bridge.

Chris Waite (MA Fine Art 1994) is Communications Manager for the Forth Bridges Unit of Amey, the company that operates the Forth Road Bridge. He's had a good deal to communicate in recent years, including the decision to build a replacement crossing, and 50th anniversary celebrations in 2014.

John Redpath (BSc Civil Engineering 1980) is a senior engineer working on the construction of the Queensferry Crossing, due to open in late 2016. It will be the longest bridge of its kind in the world. Read your fellow alumni's amazing stories and enjoy footage and photos at **edin.ac/span-forth** 



## HISTORY MAKERS – INFORMATICS

Our first interactive History Makers features the people and events that have kept Edinburgh at the forefront of informatics.

Our History Makers feature covers the arrival of computers at Edinburgh, breakthroughs in robotics, computer language and artificial intelligence, and the formation of successful spin-outs and start-ups.

Our timeline has grown through contributions and comments from readers. We hope you will continue to help us expand our History Makers timelines, including the new one featuring Nursing Studies. edin.ac/history-informatics



### THE REFUGEE CRISIS

The University's Big Idea podcast series dedicated an episode in the autumn to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe.

Three experts from across the University look at the underlying causes for the displacement of millions of people, such as the civil war in Syria and the influence of so-called Islamic State.

Dr Thomas Pierret, Dr Steve
Kirkwood and Nina Perkowski
discuss how the crisis is challenging
the European Union's foundations,
consider the language used when
discussing refugees, and ask whether
the UK is doing enough to help.
edin.ac/refugee-podcast

# THE TWO OF US

Many a lasting relationship is forged during university days, and we want to hear how you met your partner or best friend. Here is a range of memorable on-campus moments that led to lifetimes together.



### Kenneth King PhD African history 1968 Pravina Khilnani MA Arts 1968

### SAFARI SO GOOD

Our 50-year safari together started in 1965 with Pravina as undergraduate and me as postgraduate.

I met Pravina through friends at a public seminar early in the term. She was an officer in the students' United Nations Association, and she invited me to talk about Ethiopia, where I had been teaching before I was attracted back to Edinburgh by the new Centre of African Studies (CAS).

We went to a number of lectures together, including those on African History by the late Christopher Fyfe. Luckily for me, Pravina didn't pass



If you met your partner or best friend at Edinburgh, we'd love to share your story.
Email us at editor.edit@ed.ac.uk

her Sanskrit in her final term, so she stayed on, and we got engaged in October 1967. We were married in Rosslyn Chapel by Roland Walls, whose lectures in New College we had both attended. We had a second wedding in New Delhi.

We started teaching in Kenya in September 1968, Pravina in her old school, and me at the University of Nairobi. We came back to Edinburgh in 1972, for me to take up a new position in the CAS.

I eventually directed the Centre for 20 years, and Pravina became the CAS administrator in 1991. She organised Scotland-Africa '97, the largest celebration of Scotland's cultural connections with Africa ever held.

We retired in 2005, and I was invited to the University of Hong Kong. We both got involved in researching China's role in Africa, which resulted in a book, *China's aid and soft power in Africa: the case of education and training.* I am now Emeritus Professor in the School of Social & Political Science.

The University has been central to our lives together, even if Pravina had not expected to be in Scotland's cold climate 50 years after arriving!

KENNETH KING



Vivian Abrahams BSc Physiology 1951, PhD 1955, DSc 1978 Pamela Dance

### **DINNER AND DESTINY**

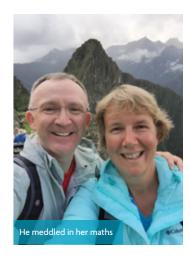
In 1954 I was transitioning from assistant lecturer to lecturer while completing a PhD. A charming young graduate from University College London arrived to take up a scholarship, also to complete a PhD.

As a well-brought-up young man I did not get involved with this person, but did introduce her, an English girl from a farm in Berkshire, to some parts of the Edinburgh social scene.

Everything changed on 28 January 1955. It was Pam's birthday – and pay day. Since my promotion I had moved from the near-starving to the relatively affluent. In a wild moment I invited everybody to a pub lunch to celebrate Pam's birthday. I enjoyed Pam's company so much that I invited her to dinner that evening, and we have been dining together ever since. We married that year.

Pam never completed her PhD but we have both recently retired from Professorial positions at Queen's University, Ontario.

VIVIAN ABRAHAMS



Peter Gibbons
BSc Physics 1983
Kathleen Murphie
BSc Engineering 1984

### **ELEVENTH-HOUR DATE**

Our first meeting couldn't be described as romantic: a crowded tearoom in the James Clerk Maxwell Building. Katy was a freshman chemical engineer and I was a third-year physics undergraduate.

Through a circle of mutual friends our paths crossed regularly and we got to know each other. However, I nearly sabotaged things when Katy asked me to hand in her maths tutorial – I decided to check it over and made a significant change only to realise at the last moment her original was correct. I have never lived that down.

We finally managed a "date" one week before I left Edinburgh – timing was not my strong point. We had dinner and got on incredibly well. Work and distance meant it took time for us to realize that we were best friends and meant to be together – a vacation in Paris certainly helped.

We've been married 25 years and have three children. That tearoom meeting led to a wonderful life together.

PETER GIBBONS

## LANDMARK



Studying in the unique city of Edinburgh is an unforgettable experience. In each edition we share your memories of an iconic campus or city landmark and its role in your student days.



## MCEWAN HALL

The McEwan Hall was completed in 1897 after what remains the biggest single gift to the University, from the brewer Sir William McEwan. Today the building is undergoing major restoration and improvement works, embracing its original purpose as one of Edinburgh's great venues. For alumni, the hall evokes strong and sometimes surprising memories.

### I REMEMBER...



John Brown **MA Economics** 

In Charities Week

I was Convenor of the Dances. The dance in McEwan Hall was in full swing when I was called to the main entrance and a voice said "we have kidnapped Noel Coward from the Kings Theatre – can we come in?". After the roll of drums the assembled gathering cried out "song, song, song". Noel turned to the student band and asked, "Can you play I'll see you again?" Amid wild cheers, a very nervous pianist struck up and Noel Coward burst into the song with his characteristic pauses, which

prompted showers of pennies and

ha'pennies being thrown in good

to thunderous applause after

which he was allowed to return

humour towards the stage. He closed



to his hotel.

Margaret Wyllie English Language & Literature 1974 We were sitting among the throng waiting for

the graduation ceremony to begin.

One of our class was on an army scholarship and was in ceremonial uniform. Suddenly there was a gasp of dismay: one friend had lost a contact lens. We all got on our hands and knees to search, including Tim – until she hissed at him to get up before he impaled us all on his spurs. He sat anxiously whilst we all crawled around him. We found the missing lens just as the dignitaries processed in.



Vivian Clement LLB 1972 At my graduation, a very dear but unkind friend tied my gown to

the back of my seat which promptly lifted with me as I stood up to proceed to the podium for "capping". Loud, embarrassing clunks and collapsing all round!



David Smith MA 1965, LLB 1967 Dr(hc) 2000 As an undergraduate in the early sixties I

took British History and attended the hall for the June exam. I looked at the paper, which seemed even more

meaningless than I had expected, and in horror I spotted the heading to the paper – Ancient History. I was in the wrong exam, the difficulty being that you could not leave an exam before half an hour had elapsed, and you could not enter an exam hall after half an hour. I realised that my correct venue was Adam House in Chambers Street and decided to make a run for it. I rushed from the hall, brushing past the servitors muttering sudden illness, made it out amid protests and, just in time arrived at Adam House, took the exam and passed. I think of that incident with a shudder, which does not diminish with the years.



Morag Garden BSc Environmental Chemistry 1995 Standing in the hall with headphones on

and singing along to some great tunes with my friends and the rest of the silent disco crowd.



Margaret Allen MBChB 1971 In the 1960s Tuberculosis remained a common disease in Scotland throughout all social classes. To matriculate one had to have proof of an X-ray, and the McEwan Hall was where the screening was done. Each October queues miles long snaked around the corridors with penurious students anxious to reach the head of the queue and ensure the process of obtaining their student grant could start. Many lifelong friendships and no doubt marriages started in that queue. It was one of the major social networking sites of the era.



Tracy Eglin MA Arts 1986 In 1968, just after my fourth birthday I attended my father's

graduation at Aberdeen University. At the moment he received his degree, a small voice was heard to shout, "That's my daddy". That appeared in the Press and Journal. In 1986, this time in Edinburgh at the McEwan Hall, it was my turn to receive my degree. I had spotted my parents and like to fancy that, as I went to collect my degree, a voice from their direction was heard to say, "That's my daughter."



Ioin the conversation at www.edit.ed.ac.uk

## THE LAST WORD

ation by Thomas Shek, third-year BA Illustration studer



esearch does not always travel in straight lines, but therein lies its interest. I moved to Edinburgh in 2003 from the US, where I had been studying the role of the small molecule nitric oxide (NO) in the skin's reaction to sunlight, to see if this would give an insight into skin cancer development. The Nobel Prize for medicine in 1998 was awarded for the discovery of NO; a growing number of effects of NO were being discovered; and the synthase enzyme that makes it had been found in increased levels in skin after sun exposure.

In Pittsburgh, working with mice that lacked NO synthase, I had published some interesting cellular effects of NO, and hoped to move this research into humans on my return to Scotland.

Things did not go as I had expected. Working with Dr Megan Mowbray, a very able MD student, we found that we were unable to turn off NO release in human skin, whichever way we blocked the NO synthase.

This was depressing stuff: two years' work had led to nothing, as we were unable to see what happened to skin in the absence of NO. We set about analysing why this was, and to our surprise, discovered that the skin contains large stores of NO, as stable oxidised forms.

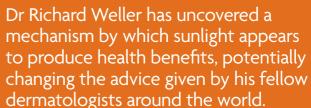
In the chemical conditions of the skin, ultraviolet radiation – as found in sunlight – can convert these back to NO. There was some satisfaction that we had worked out why our experiments hadn't worked, but, I am ashamed to admit, initially no realisation that this might be important.

At a meeting in Bregenz about six months later, I was talking with colleagues and the possibilities began to dawn on me. Maybe this mechanism might link sunlight and skin with other aspects of physiology. Working with a succession of research students, I was able to show that irradiating humans with ultraviolet A moves NO from its stores in the skin to the circulation, where it dilates blood vessels and lowers blood pressure.

I have had to go back and look at the epidemiology of sunlight and all-cause mortality.

High blood pressure is now the leading cause of premature death and disease in the world, so any steps that reduce it are immensely important. This UV-skin-NO pathway suggests a mechanism by which sunlight may have health benefits.

**SENIOR LECTURER** IN DERMATOLOGY



Colleagues in Australia, working with the knowledge that obesity and a tendency to diabetes are commoner in winter than summer, developed a mouse model of these conditions (known as metabolic syndrome). We showed that UV reduces metabolic syndrome in mice, that vitamin D plays no part in this, but that the UV-skin-NO pathway is again responsible. Here in Edinburgh, we have found a new NO-mediated immune regulating effect in humans. which we are about to publish. We suspect this also may account for some of the anti-inflammatory effects of sunlight.

The clinical half of my life as a dermatologist involves advising patients to limit sunlight exposure to prevent skin cancer. I have now had to go back and look at the epidemiology of sunlight and allcause mortality, realising that this is a far more important outcome measure than skin cancer alone. Remarkably there are no worthwhile data showing that sunlight

exposure shortens life, although it undoubtedly is a risk factor for skin cancer. Several epidemiological studies from Scandinavia now show that increased sun-seeking behaviour correlates with increased life span – even at the expense of more skin cancers

This continues to be a fascinating research journey. The slightly controversial message has caught the public interest and I have found myself giving talks for TED, the BBC, and even the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

I have recently teamed up with Dr Darren Shaw at the University's Roslin Institute to analyse the UK Biobank data and find how sunlight exposure affects all-cause mortality in the UK. I have also received funding from the British Heart Foundation to start a clinical trial on the use of daily UV as a treatment for high blood pressure. Let's see what the official public health advice will be on sunlight 10 years from now.

**BILLET** 

# The General Council of the University of Edinburgh



REPORT

By Professor Charles Swainson Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council

The General Council provides graduates with 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 governing body, the University Court, are also members of the General Council. It 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

his has been a busy time for your Business Committee. Considerable effort has been expended countering the potential bad effects of the Scottish Government's new Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill.

Despite previous submissions by the higher education sector and your Committee, the result of consultation has been nil. No substantive changes are proposed. To further press the case for change, I and your Secretary emailed all alumni with email addresses asking them to review the proposals and our criticisms of them, and write then to their MSPs or the Cabinet Secretary for Education. Hundreds of you responded. Although a few were in favour of the proposals, the democratic majority shared our concerns and took action – many thanks to those who did. The replies we have seen from SNP MSPs simply repeat the party line that "all is well in this best of all possible worlds". Other parties have different views.

Your University Court already has a chair elected by the students and staff (the Rector), a vice-chair (the Vice-Convener) appointed by the Court to take the performance management role of holding the Principal to account, academic staff elected by Senate, Assessors elected by the alumni, students elected by the students (EUSA President

and Vice-President), and a member elected by the non-teaching staff. These arrangements were hard won and are valued by our University community. They have served us well and are echoed by the other Universities covered by the 1858 Act.

In my knowledge, there has not been a serious problem. The Code of Governance, implemented over the past three years, is working and has brought change in all institutions - so where is the problem? The problems of poor governance highlighted by the Auditor General are specific to the Colleges sector; reform is not needed everywhere. Yet the Scottish Government remains silent and unable to explain the need for this Bill, other than to "ensure value for the public purse". When did the law ever achieve that?

The answers may lie elsewhere. Governments are about control, and higher education with its research and learning are outside Government directive, particularly those such as Edinburgh that derive the smaller part of their income from Scottish tuition fees. The pernicious part of this Bill is nothing to do with education; it's the provision that allows any secondary legislation to be enacted by regulation without parliamentary or public scrutiny. Protest then will be futile: it's law. Why would you do that if your intentions were benign? Again,

silence. We have no clue as to the government's future intentions for the sector, therefore we should not sleepwalk into such a situation. Universities thrive and are valuable to society when they are strong, independent and havens of dissent and contrary views, the essential requirements for innovation.

To other matters. Your committee contributed to a successful Alumni Weekend in June with an interview with the Principal, conducted by Sir Philip Mawer, and a reception, which were well attended. Plans are in place now for the June 2016 Half-Yearly Meeting in London. It will be less formal, more interactive and I hope very interesting as a result.

Your Committee continues to support the staff and students with efforts to improve the student experience, but this has been an uphill struggle, despite considerable investment, with little progress in some key National Student Survey metrics. Your Committee welcomes the appointment of Senior Vice Principal Charlie Jeffery to lead a more focused effort of improvement, including more evident support for excellence in teaching. I'm excited as we start a new term: there is much to do. See our elections coming up, and join us in supporting this great University.

## **BILLET** NEWS

WINTER 2015 | 16

### THE HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Scottish Government has introduced draft legislation to change the way all Scottish universities are governed. There have been numerous articles in the media about this. The Business Committee shared the stated aims of the Government, which were to make governance more modern, inclusive and accountable. We did not believe that the present legislation was necessary to achieve this.

The Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance was introduced in 2013. Much work has been done across the sector to improve governance in line with this Code. A formal review has been scheduled for 2016. Should any further changes be required they should surely await the outcome of this review.

### THREAT TO AUTONOMY

The Business Committee was concerned that the proposals will damage the autonomy of universities and the legal responsibilities of board members as charity trustees, and were counter to good principles of governance. The draft legislation gave wide powers for Scottish

Ministers to bring in further changes through secondary legislation, which meant that the full process of parliamentary scrutiny would not be required, further threatening the autonomy of our universities.

The imposition of a "one size fits all" model of governance in such a variety of institutions across Scotland imposed unnecessary and probably harmful uniformity. Hundreds of University of Edinburgh professors would be stripped of their existing rights to take part in Senate.

The proposed changes would reduce the number of our General Council Court Assessors even though these play an active and valuable role on our Court. It would also destroy the very effective dual leadership system developed at this University of having a Vice-Convener who is equivalent to our Chair of Institution and appointed after an open and transparent process, and a Rector, elected by staff and students, who performs ceremonial functions and presides over Court meetings.

The diversity and autonomy of Scotland's higher education institutions have helped create a highly successful sector.

A more detailed description of our objections to the draft Bill can be found at: edin.ac/he-gov-bill

of sending an email to members to encourage them to consider further this proposal from the Scottish Government and to register their views on it to their MSP or, if located outwith Scotland, direct to the First Minister. We strongly believed that this Bill was a misguided way to achieve positive developments in governance. Only by making it clear that there was widespread objection to it did there seem any chance it might be revised or, even better, withdrawn.

Many members took such actions and for this we were very grateful. A very small number of members disagreed with our stance on this matter.

At the time of writing, the Bill continues to progress and further action might still be required.

### MEMBERS' VIEWS

We took the highly unusual action

### PRIORITIES FOR THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2015/16

Following input from members, Court Assessors and Edinburgh University Students' Association, the Business Committee decided on the priorities it and its Standing Committees should address this session. These are neither prescriptive nor exclusive and the Business Committee will react as appropriate to arising issues.

The overall theme is the student experience and the achievement of consistent excellence across the University.

Teaching and learning We wish to continue to monitor

enhancements in teaching and learning, and in particular the Personal Tutor system, how well it has been implemented and how Personal Tutors are trained and supported. The training, personal development and recognition of academic staff are also of interest, along with the management and organisation of schools within the University.

the success of the University's

### Infrastructure

Another strand is the support infrastructure in place to enhance excellence; IT, its infrastructure and use within the University and

online; accommodation issues for the growing University, both for academics and students; student welfare support, especially for mental health; and finally the implementation of policies covering issues of equality and diversity, and sexual harassment.

In addition the Committee will continue to monitor the new Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill, actively opposing it where necessary. As far as possible, it will continue supporting the University in its stance.



GENERAL COUNCIL **MEETING AND ALUMNI EVENTS I ONDON** 18 JUNE 2016

### Thinking and talking

webpages at: www.ed.ac.uk

after-lunch addresses. can be viewed at www.general-council. ed.ac.uk/media

## BILLET NEWS

## THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, 13 FEBRUARY 2016

The February 2016 General Council Half-Yearly Meeting will be held once again in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), High School Yards, Edinburgh, due to continued refurbishment of the School of Law, and after a very successful meeting there in June 2015. The meeting will take place at 10.30am and as usual we look forward to the Principal's presentation of the Annual Review 2014/15.

Further details and papers appear on page 36.

## THE GENERAL COUNCIL LUNCH, 13 FEBRUARY 2016

As usual following the Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 13 February 2016, members of the General Council, alumni, partners, family and friends are cordially invited to the General Council Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College. We look forward to welcoming our after-lunch speaker Professor Mona Siddiqui.

Professor Siddiqui joined the University's School of Divinity in December 2011 as the first person to hold a Chair in Islamic and Interreligious Studies. She also holds the posts of Assistant Principal for Religion and Society and Dean International for the Middle East. Her research is primarily in Islamic jurisprudence and ethics and Christian-Muslim relations. Among her most recent publications are Hospitality in Islam: Welcoming in God's Name (Yale UP, 2015) and My Way: A Muslim Woman's Journey (IB Tauris, 2014).

She is well known internationally as a speaker on issues around religion, ethics and public life. She is a regular commentator in the media, known especially for her appearances on BBC Radio's *Thought for the Day.* In 2012 she was a guest on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs.* She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a member of the Global Agenda Council on Faith for the World Economic Forum. In 2016, she will give the Prideaux lectures at the University of Exeter and the Gifford lectures at the University of Aberdeen

If you would like to attend the General Council Lunch, please book online via www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening, or complete and return the form (right) no later than Friday 5 February 2016. Tickets at £20 include pre-lunch wine reception and a buffet lunch in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available to purchase.





## THE FEBRUARY 2016 GENERAL COUNCIL LUNCH

Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on Saturday 13 February 2016, 12.30pm for 1pm.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_\_tickets (£20 each)

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

Name

Address \_\_

\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_

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

Dietary requirements/preferences \_\_\_\_

Please return 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, or, alternatively, you may order online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening

Closing date for applications: Friday 5 February 2016.

## **ELECTIONS**

### **GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTION, FEBRUARY 2016**

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2016

The following nominations have been received for the election of five members of the Business Committee to serve from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2020.

The names of the candidates appear in random order, as drawn by ballot. This is also the order in which they will appear on the voting screen and paper.



Gordon Douglas Cairns LLB 1979 Proposed by Frances Diana Dow, MA 1969 Seconded by Stuart Gowans Macpherson, Emeritus Professor, University of Edinburgh

Having been privileged to serve over the last four years as Convener of a Standing Committee I am keen to continue playing an active role, especially in light of the current political moves for change and the inevitable financial and cultural pressures to come.



Niven McKenzie MA 1967 Proposed by Stuart James Ritchie Walker, MA 1968 Seconded by David Mackenzie Munro, BSc 1973

Hamish Andrew

I have a background of chartered accountancy, English Literature and charity and amenity support. I have enjoyed being a member of the Business Committee and the Finance and Services Standing Committee for four years and believe I can continue helping make the most of the opportunities and challenges for our University.



David Mackenzie Munro, BSc 1973 Proposed by Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963 Seconded by Lucinda Louise Mackay, MA 1965

I have a long association with the University of Edinburgh where I gained two degrees prior to becoming a Research Fellow and then Director of an educational charity supporting universities in Scotland. I am keen to serve a second term using this experience for the benefit of our University.



Stephen Gilbert Hillier DSc 1992 Proposed by Charles Patrick Swainson, MB ChB 1971 Seconded by Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963

My academic career at Edinburgh University included six years as Vice-Principal International. I received an Edinburgh (DSc) degree and an OBE for services to international higher education. I also learned how the University works. Recently retired, I would be privileged to support the University's further ambitions through Business Committee membership.



Briana Nsanga Fitz
Pegado
MA 2014
Proposed by Stuart
James Ritchie
Walker, MA 1968
Seconded by Matthew
Jack McPherson,
MA 2011

As a former EUSA President, who served on the University Court, and as founder of the Edinburgh Student Arts Festival (ESAF), I would bring a fresh perspective on women's, BME and international student issues. This is aided by my current role in running the ESAF as a social enterprise.



Robert John Cormack Dr hc 2009 Proposed by Stuart Kinnaird Monro, PhD 1982 Seconded by Frances Diana Dow, MA 1969

As a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Queen's University; Principal of UHI; Court Member of Queen Margaret University; and a member of the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the David Hume Institute I would bring experience of research and teaching in a diversity of institutions to the Business Committee.



Stuart Gowans
Macpherson
Emeritus Professor,
University of Edinburgh
Proposed by Charles
Patrick Swainson,
MB ChB 1971
Seconded by Stuart
James Ritchie Walker,
MA 1968

Originally a surgeon with a particular interest in kidney transplantation and medical education, later I served on and chaired academic, health service, government and regulatory bodies locally, and across Scotland and the UK. I have enjoyed my first term on the Business Committee, especially my chairmanship of the Academic Standing Committee.

## VOTING IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTION

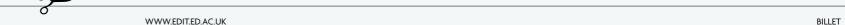
This is the opportunity for you to participate in the governance of the University by voting for members of the Business Committee of the General Council, who are responsible for much of its work.

In February 2012 the General Council introduced online voting on a secure website, the Elections channel of the MyEd Alumni Portal, which will be open from Monday 11 January 2016 until 1700 GMT Wednesday 10

February 2016. In order to vote you must register via the EASE registration process as explained below by 1700 GMT on Tuesday 9 February 2016.

Voting Papers are only enclosed where members have specifically requested them previously, no later than 30 November 2015, and should be completed and returned in the enclosed addressed envelope to the Secretary of the General Council. Details of all candidates appear on these pages. Anyone still wishing to vote by post may do so for subsequent elections by requesting a postal vote from the General Council Office before 30 November in the year prior to any election.

To be able to vote online you need to be a member of the General Council eligible to vote in this election and registered through EASE as a MyEd Alumni Portal user. Those who registered for previous elections do not need to do so again: simply use the same username and password. If you have already used the Portal as a student, you should still be able to use your student username and password to access the Alumni Portal. If you are a new user you will need to contact the support service. To do this send an email to the Information Services helpline at IS.Helpline@ ed.ac.uk requesting access to MyEd and giving your full name, date of your first graduation from Edinburgh and the degree awarded. A username and initial password will then be sent to you. If you experience problems at any point when registering for, or accessing, the Alumni Portal, please also contact Information Services at the above address, identifying yourself by matriculation number (if known), full name, year and degree awarded at first graduation from Edinburgh.



## **BILLET** GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

### CONTINUED

### **GENERAL COUNCIL HALF-YEARLY MEETING ON SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2016**

10.30AM: THE SEMINAR ROOM, EDINBURGH CENTRE FOR CARBON INNOVATION (ECCI)

10am to 10.30am: Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Atrium, ECCI

10.30am: General Council Meeting in the Seminar Room, ECCI

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

Members are invited to submit questions to the meeting by email to **generalcouncilquestions@hotmail.co.uk** either in advance or live during the meeting. The meeting will be web-cast and may be viewed live at: **www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media** 

### AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

- Results of the Elections for five Members of the General Council Business Committee
- 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation Saturday 6 June 2015 (PAPER A)
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Report of the Business Committee
- 5 Dates of future meetings of the General Council
- 6 Notice of forthcoming Elections
- 7 Presentation by Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, of the Annual Report to the University
- 8 Any other competent business
- 9 Adjournment

### PAPER A

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN THE EDINBURGH CENTRE FOR CARBON INNOVATION ON SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2015

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN 7 BRISTO SQUARE, EDINBURGH, ON 14 FEBRUARY 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2015 were approved.

### 2 MATTERS ARISING

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

## REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Convener welcomed everyone to this second Alumni Weekend to be held in Edinburgh.

He began by mentioning the student protest that had recently taken place in Charles Stewart House against the University's perceived position on investment in companies involved in fossil fuels. He pointed out that it was difficult for large institutions to win an argument in the heat of the moment, particularly against a background of social media, but that they could win the day, which was what the University had done. The University had already

undertaken a long consultation involving a broad spectrum of differing views and had come to a very balanced set of decisions, which demonstrated the principles of logic, philosophy and ethics, and also the skills and strengths of the University.

The Academic Standing
Committee, led by Professor
Stuart Macpherson, had continued
to look at the University's
international research and teaching
excellence and the Convener
lamented the fact that despite
the University moving up the
research rankings in the UK and
internationally there had been
no reflection of this in terms of
Research Excellence Framework
dividend from the Government.
However, he felt that there were
alternative sources of funding.

The committee had met with one of the University's Rising Stars and learned first-hand about the pressures on academic life, from among other things the regulatory burden on UK universities. Also the very welcome efforts to improve the student experience are very time-consuming and take considerable effort from individual members of staff.

Some of the best feedback had come from students who had been able to engage with staff either directly in research, or indirectly through their teaching, and that not everybody could be a great teacher, but everybody could be good. Teaching excellence was

rewarded and maintained at the University.

The Constitutional Standing
Committee, led by Gordon Cairns,
had been revising the General
Council leaflet to illustrate better
the role of the General Council
and examples of how it played
into university life and would
also be watching the Scottish
Government's reaction to the
very mixed consultation
responses to the proposed
Higher Education Bill.

The Finance & Services Standing Committee, led by Kirsty MacGregor, had not met since the previous report.

The Public Affairs Standing
Committee, led by Matt
McPherson, had supported
Development & Alumni with
events planning for the current
weekend and the Convener
encouraged everyone to attend
the interview session with the
Principal the following afternoon.

The committee had been thinking about how the Business Committee could use social media better to engage with recent graduates. *Edit* was now live online, and could be downloaded as an app to smartphones.

The Convener was delighted to welcome the new Rector, Steve Morrison, whose background was as Chief Executive of Granada TV, before starting his own media consultancy and production

company, and looked forward to welcoming him to future Half-Yearly Meetings.

The Convener thanked Alan Johnston and Ann Smyth for their unstinting service to the Court and the Business Committee as General Council Assessors. He welcomed new Court Assessors, Ritchie Walker and Alan Brown (former Convener and now a Regent), joining the third Assessor, Doreen Davidson.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener's remarks 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, 13 February 2016, at 50 George Square, Edinburgh (Post-meeting note – due to unforeseen circumstances this has now changed to ECCI, Edinburgh).

Any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 25 November 2015. The following Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 18 June 2016, at a venue in London to be confirmed, and any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 30 March 2016.

### **PRESENT**

SHERIFF PRINCIPAL EDWARD BOWEN Chancellor's Assessor, in the Chair

MS SARAH SMITH
Secretary of the University

DR ANDY KER

Executive Director, Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation

Secretary of the General Council

Convener of the Business Committee

REV DR HARRIET HARRIS Chaplain to the University

49P AND 4V = 53 OTHER MEMBER (P = Physical; V = Virtual)

## **BILLET** GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

### 5 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING **FLECTIONS**

There would be an election for five Members of the Business Committee in February 2016. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office and on the website should be received in the General Council Office by the 25 November 2015.

6 PRESENTATION BY DR ANDY KERR. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EDINBURGH CENTRE FOR CARBON INNOVATION

Dr Andy Kerr talked about innovation and impact, and in particular today's great energy challenges together with a brief description of the work of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI). Accessible, cheap and readily available energy was critical for modern societies. A trilemma, usually mutually exclusive, existed around this.

The three conflicting priorities were energy security, ensuring it was readily available; sustainability, such as minimising air pollution or carbon emissions; and equity or affordability, the need to keep prices down. Globally there remained additional issues of energy access and supporting economic growth. Currently all aspects were in a state of turbulence.

Energy security changes were ongoing. For example gas supplies were now a global market due to growth in Liquefied Natural Gas supplies as well as developments with shale gas. Oil markets have had great price volatility. Against this, the investment in renewable energy had dramatically increased. It had exceeded that in fossil fuels since 2013.

The geographical focus for renewables had also changed, with China now the biggest investor and producer followed by the United States, with huge growth in both wind and solar energy. Air pollution had

worsened in many places, mainly due to burning of coal and use of vehicles.

New forms of transport and more intelligent usage were being developed to counter this and the burning of coal reduced markedly.

The University was very active in many ways in terms of research, innovation and enterprise. This was covered in its Strategic Plan. Dr Kerr suggested that it should be more proactive in driving public policy, and cultural and social change. This would be on a global basis and be multi-sector, in cooperation with a wide range of institutions and stakeholders. The increasing and long-established international profile of the University greatly enhanced its ability to inform and influence.

The ECCI acted as a national hub and knowledge exchange vehicle, working with the Scottish Government on local policies in tandem with many other Scottish institutions. It had business incubation, start-up companies and corporate partners all working in the building. It also had a major educational function, both locally and in important countries such as China. The opening of a branch in Hong Kong emphasised this.

The University and ECCI tried to build research capabilities, influence international strategies and act as a source of independent information as an "honest broker". Its platform of global academies and expertise in energy, global health, informatics and governance, for example, gave it some highly relevant and useful capabilities.

A wide ranging and challenging discussion session ended the talk.

The full text of Dr Kerr's remarks, and the record of the discussion that followed the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet. The presentation may also be seen as a video on the website. 7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT **BUSINESS** 

There was no other competent

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.

Rev Dr Harriet Harris closed the meeting with a benediction.

supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of 2015, are available at www.general-council. ed.ac.uk/media (under the Publications tab). General Council members may also request it by post from: Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers half-an-hour beforehand.



Previous copies of *Billet* can be found under the Publications tab at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media

### Chairman: HRH The Princess Royal Secretary: Michael J Mitchell, BSc. PhD 2019 Registrar: Sarah Smith, University Secretary ex-officio GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSORS ON THE UNIVERSITY COURT: Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD Dr Alan D G Brown, MBChB, FRCOG, FRCS 2019 Ritchie Walker, MA, BSc, DipEd 2019 **CHANCELLOR'S ASSESSOR:** Sheriff Principal Edward F Bowen, CBE, TD, QC ex-officio BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Convener: Charles Swainson, MBChB, FRCPE, FRCSE, FFPHM 2016 Vice Convener: Vacant Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Stuart Macpherson, OBE, MBChB, FRCS, FRCP, FRCGP, FAcadMedEd C Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: Gordon D Cairns, LLB 2016 Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Matthew McPherson, MA 2017 Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee: Sir Philip Mawer, D Litt, LLD (Hon), MA, DPA, Hon FIFA 2018 **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:

:	Hamish McKenzie, MA	2016
2	David M Munro, MBE, BSc, PhD	2016
	John Clifford, MA, MSc, FRSA	2017
4	Anne W. Paterson, BSc, Dip. Social Study, AIMSW, CCE	2017
2	Scott Peter, MA, PGDE	2017
2	lan Stevens, MA, ACA	2017
4	Dorothy Macleod, BSc, MBA	2018
4	Sarah Morgan, BSc, MSc	2018
:	David Houston, BSc, MBA, PhD, FSITM	2018
	Samuel Trett, MBA, MA	2018
4	Sophie Marshall, MA	2019
:	Jock Millican, BSc, FCILT	2019
	Krístin Hannesdóttir, BArch(Hons), BA, MFA	2019
	Bruce Ritson, OBE, MD, FRCPE, FRCPsych	2019

Mary T Scott, BA

**OFFICERS:** 



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