



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

bulletin*

SPRING 2011

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE



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SUBMISSION DETAILS

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editorial

Welcome to the first edition of *bulletin* for 2011. As ever there is much to celebrate from within the University community.

On pages 6–7, we launch our new Research in Focus section, which showcases just a sample of the groundbreaking work taking place at the University. On pages 8–9, we share the story of Professor Stephen Wigmore’s ambitious project to raise awareness of organ donation, and on pages 10–12, we profile some of the University’s inspiring female academics, in celebration of International Women’s Day.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the School of Scottish Studies Archives, we document its history in words and pictures on pages 14–15. We honour the tercentenary of David Hume’s birth year on pages 16–17, with a piece from Professor David Fergusson of the School of Divinity.

To keep up with the latest news for staff, visit our online site www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin, where you can sign up to receive the news headlines straight to your inbox. You can also follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/UoE_staff.

Captured in conversation:
share a slice of Scottish
history on pages 14–15.



ECA merger moves forward



The Scottish Parliament has passed the Order for the merger of the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art.

All stages of approval have now passed and the merger will take effect on 1 August 2011. At this time, Edinburgh College of Art will combine with the University's School of Arts, Culture and Environment to form a new Edinburgh College of Art within the University, containing Art, Design, Music, History of Art, Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

The University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, says: "We very much welcome the news that the Scottish Parliament has passed the Order for merger. The vision is to create a vibrant, enlarged and sustainable art college that

combines the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the two institutions, and builds on the strong international reputations that they both enjoy."

The Principal of Edinburgh College of Art, Professor Ian Howard, who intends to retire as the College's Head with effect from 31 July 2011, says: "I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to bring this proposal to fruition. The vision and planning will now become a reality and we are confident that, through merger, the College and the University will be at the heart of creativity, innovation, and cultural and intellectual life in Scotland and beyond."

Over the coming months, the institutions will be working together to welcome ECA to the University with the minimum of disruption to academic activities.

New Chancellor elected

HRH The Princess Royal has been elected as Chancellor of the University. She succeeds HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who stepped down from the role in 2010, having held it since 1953.

The Princess Royal has been elected as Chancellor with effect from 31 March 2011.

The Princess Royal is also Patron of the University's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. She will be the University's eighth Chancellor in the 150-year history of the position.

"I am delighted that The Princess Royal is to become our new Chancellor and I welcome her to this important role at the heart of University life," says the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Edinburgh, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea.

The election of the Chancellor is the responsibility of the General Council of the University. Dr Alan Brown, Convener of the General Council's Business Committee, says: "I am certain that the appointment of HRH The Princess Royal as Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh will be welcomed enthusiastically by all General Council members, and it will be of immense benefit to the whole University community."



Opening doors in India

The University has launched a new liaison office in Mumbai. Building on Edinburgh's long-standing links with India, the office will enhance communication and collaboration between the University and its Indian partners in education, business and government.

"Our partnerships with India will help us to further education across the world and to jointly pursue solutions to serious problems facing us all – such as climate change, improving global health and economic development," says the University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea.

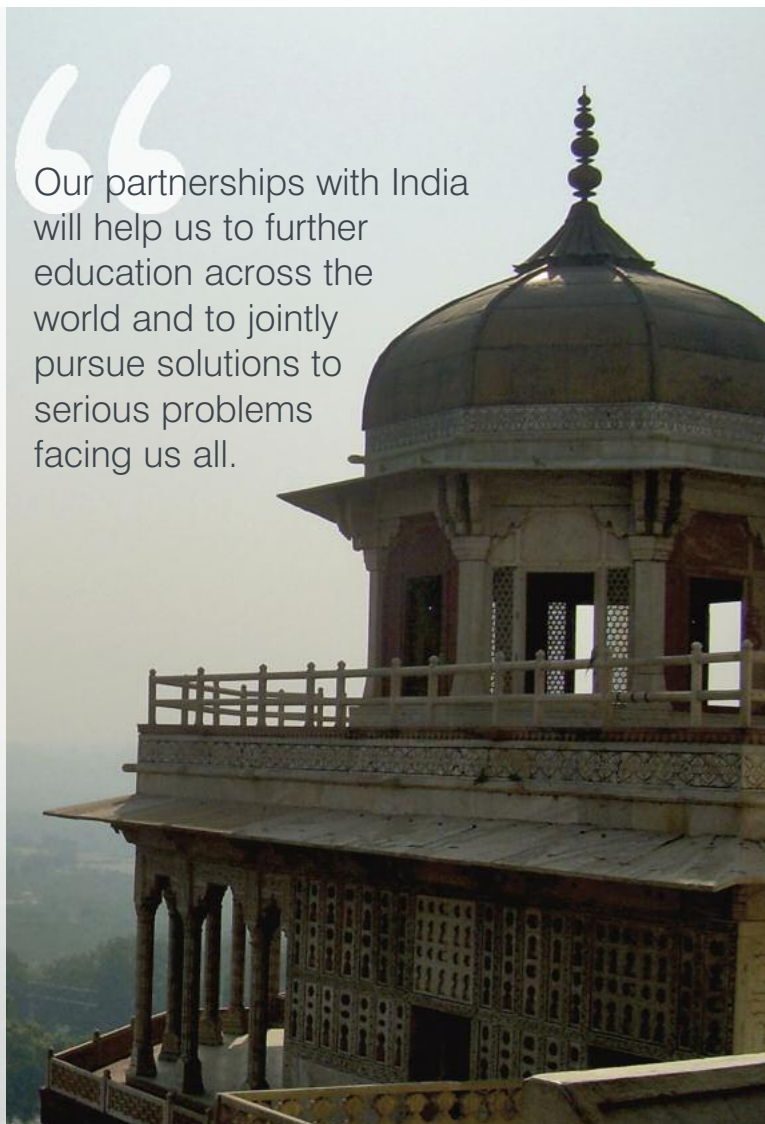
To coincide with the official opening, academic staff from the University held public lectures in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. These marked the beginning of a series of collaborative events for the University in India in 2011.

In addition, the University launched the MSc in South Asia and International Development, which prepares students to work in development-linked areas in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The University will also make 15 scholarships – called the Principal's Indian Masters Scholarships – available to students from India for masters study in any subject from the 2011–2012 academic year. Each scholarship will have a value of £3,000, which will be tenable for one academic year.

Watch a video report on Indian students in Edinburgh at www.ed.ac.uk/all-news/indiaoffice-140211.

“Our partnerships with India will help us to further education across the world and to jointly pursue solutions to serious problems facing us all.”



'Superior' review for procurement standards

The University has been rated as 'superior' for procurement by the Scottish Government's Procurement Capability Assessment.

The independent evaluation was made by Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC). This is the second year the University has achieved 'superior' standard but this latest score of 88 per cent was an improvement on the University's performance in the 2008/09 assessment.

These results marked the end of a strong year for the Procurement team. The University's procurement efficiencies totalled £7.8 million and the team's

expertise was sought externally by Queen Margaret University and Borders Council. The team was also shortlisted for two awards for excellence in procurement.

Karen Bowman, the University's Director of Procurement, says: "We still have room for improvement. We would like to work with and for colleagues to improve services to support our strategic aims of delivering excellence and supporting our quality people and services. We are also keen to embed social responsibility and sustainability and measure and deliver good value for money."

The Procurement team welcomes input from the University community, and

would like to hear from people who are interested in contributing to enhancing the procurement experience.

The team is planning a series of initiatives designed to involve more staff in the University's procurement effectiveness. These include user intelligence groups, LEAN projects, improvements to online sourcing and procurement journey workflow.

If you would like to make suggestions to improve the procurement service, contact Karen Bowman at karen.bowman@ed.ac.uk. Or, visit the website at www.ed.ac.uk/procurement.



New student centre opened

A former office space in Old College has been transformed into a state-of-the-art student centre aimed at providing a welcoming and professional environment for students wanting to access a range of University services.

Following a year-long design and planning process and 12 weeks of renovation work, the Old College rooms, located at the south side of the quad, have been overhauled to create the new student-friendly space.

"This is the University's 'front of house' from a student's perspective and in some cases the first interior space they would see on arrival, so in that sense it's a statement about the quality of the University," says David Casey from Estates & Buildings' Works Division, whose design team undertook the task of transforming the offices into an area in which newly arrived students would feel immediately at home.

A big challenge was to reintroduce the sense of light and space in the rooms and to give them a modern, bright feel – while retaining all the history of the original fixtures and fittings.

"We feel that the design team has done an excellent job in blending the old with the new," says Rio Watt, Director of Academic Registry, whose team, in conjunction with Finance, will staff the new offices.

She adds: "We'd be really grateful if those staff who advise students would draw the new location to their attention as a place where they can get a wide range of advice and support for financial and administration issues."

Staff in the new centre can advise students on all aspects of student funding and administration, including graduations, examinations, matriculation, fees, scholarships and bursaries.

Preserving history

The renovations not only respect the building's history aesthetically but are also an acknowledgement of how the space was used many years ago. In the revamped student centre, the space where students will matriculate was formerly the Students' Hall. This was the heart of the 'working library'.



news in brief

STAFF ROADSHOWS

Staff were given the opportunity to hear about the University's financial position and future plans at a series of information roadshows held throughout the University's estate during February. Panel speakers including Professor April McMahon, Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research; Jon Gorringer, Director of Finance; Alexis Cornish, Director of Planning; Angus Currie, Director of Estates & Buildings; and Sheila Gupta, Director of Human Resources, gave brief presentations and answered questions from the audience. You can find out what was discussed by listening to the podcast of one of the events online at <http://goo.gl/4yIIC>.

NEW PREMISES FOR HCA

The School of History, Classics & Archaeology has moved to renovated premises at the Old Medical School at Teviot Place. The eight-storey, 19th-century listed building, designed by Scottish architect Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, was refurbished to provide state-of-the-art facilities for staff and students. The School comprises 80 academic and administrative staff, 58 honorary professors and fellows, 300 graduate students and around 1,100 undergraduates.

IRENE KHAN CELEBRATES WOMEN

To mark International Women's Day in March, the University hosted an event featuring the former Secretary General of Amnesty International, Dr Irene Khan. The human rights campaigner, who last year received an honorary degree from the University, spoke on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: the Unfurnished Revolution.' The event was chaired by journalist and broadcaster Sheena McDonald. You can watch a video of Irene Kahn's lecture online at <http://goo.gl/Z0CeR>.

NEW ROLE FOR APRIL MCMAHON

Professor April McMahon, the University's Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University. The Vice-Principal will take up her new post on 1 August. The University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, says: "I wish Professor McMahon every success in her new role and thank her for her excellent contribution and the commitment she has shown during her time with the University of Edinburgh."

Research in focus



Reuniting the global Scots family

The Scottish Government has provided funding for University of Edinburgh research to help inform governmental policy on engaging with Scotland's diaspora. The £200,000 sum offered over two years will help fund one PhD studentship and three postdoctoral fellowships at the University's Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies. The role of the Centre, which was established in 2008 with a £1 million endowment, is to reassess Scotland's influence on the modern world. A key focus is to examine how Scots influenced societies, economies and cultures around the world – not just the New World of Australia, New Zealand and North America, but countries such as Sweden, Poland and France, as well as Asia.



N. Russell, the Roslin Institute of the University of Edinburgh

Bird flu breakthrough

Scientists at the Roslin Institute of the University of Edinburgh, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Cambridge, have developed genetically modified chickens that could prevent bird flu outbreaks spreading within poultry flocks. The development would protect the health of domestic poultry and could also reduce the risk of new flu virus epidemics in the human population. The scientists introduced a new gene to chickens that produced a small "decoy" molecule to mimic an important control element of the bird flu virus. This decoy molecule tricks the virus's replication system so that it replicates the decoy rather than the viral genome. When the transgenic chickens were infected with avian flu, they became sick but did not transmit the infection on to other chickens. This was the case even if the other chickens were non-transgenic birds.



MAPPING OUT HEALTH IMPACT

Geoscientists and chemists investigating the relationship between climate and health have received significant NERC funding. Their project will examine spatial variations in health outcomes related to mixtures of air pollutants and weather in the UK, and its relationship to socioeconomic inequalities. Scientists spanning multiple disciplines from five institutions are involved in the project.

PEACEBUILDING THROUGH ART

Dr Jolyon Mitchell, Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, has received Binks Trust funding for a three-year project (2011–13) that will focus on the use of different media arts for peacebuilding. The funding will enable the appointment of a resident artist and two researchers, as well as a programme of events including an exhibition, titled 'Word and Image', to be staged at New College in May.

GPS FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS

Dr Brian McKinstry of the School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health has received funding for a feasibility study that could minimise the ill effects experienced by dementia patients who wander. The practising GP is investigating, alongside city partners, whether satellite tracking devices can be used to help carers locate dementia patients when they wander beyond a pre-defined safe zone.

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



What I'm discovering...

Professor Andrea Schäfer, Chair of Environmental Engineering, on how she is striving to improve drinking water quality in Ghana.

"Chemical water quality is very poor in many countries, and in Ghana, fluoride, arsenic, uranium and nitrate, together with salt, are the usual suspects. We're developing technologies – renewable energy-powered membrane filters – that can remove these chemicals along with microbiological contaminants.

"Our three-year pump-priming initiative, funded by a Leverhulme Royal Society Africa Award, is part of my life vision of 'safe drinking water for all children'. We collaborate with Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and Heriot-Watt University (Edinburgh).

"In 2007 we brought back from Ghana 200 water samples – more than half of them failed World Health Organization

drinking water guidelines for chemical parameters.

"We work on a range of technologies but on a field trip in Ghana over Christmas we coupled local materials – in essence, African soil – with membranes to remove specifically fluoride. Our technologies can be used almost anywhere. We first started this work of renewable energy-powered membrane systems in Australia, using the sun. In Scotland such systems are used in very remote areas [using wind] and then there are natural disaster situations that need autonomous systems that can produce drinking water from anything, including sewage effluent and seawater! This makes engineering really interesting."

researchers in the spotlight

bulletin highlights some of the University's researchers who and projects that have been hitting the headlines.

TRACING SCOTTISH ROOTS

Historical geneticist, Dr Jim Wilson, from the University's Centre for Population Health Sciences, has collaborated with historian Alistair Moffat for a BBC Radio Scotland series, 'The Scots: A Genetic Journey', broadcast throughout March.

MONKS' DIARIES CREATE A STORM

Newspapers from around the world were intrigued by Professor Gabi Hegerl's research that uses ancient weather records, including details gleaned from monk's diaries, to verify how European climates have changed over the past 500 years. The study was covered by print media in Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Holland, Spain and the UK, among many other countries worldwide.

INSIGHTS FROM EGYPT EXPERTS


University academics were called upon to offer insight into the political unrest experienced in Egypt at the start of the year. Dr Anthony Gorman, Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History and author of *Historians, State and Politics in Twentieth Century Egypt* (Routledge) and Dr Adham Saouli, Programme Director of the University's MSc in International Relations of the Middle East, commented on the situation on BBC Radio Scotland.

NUTS FOR ALLERGY RESEARCH

The Centre for Population Health Sciences made a media impact with its research, led by Dr Daniel Kotz, which showed that young boys were more susceptible than young girls to developing peanut allergies. The findings were covered by most national newspapers and broadcast media.

IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOST

Professor Peter Ghazal's discovery that cutting cholesterol can help the body's immune system made a worldwide news splash, gaining coverage as far afield as Thailand, Bahrain, Iran, China and Germany, as well as closer to home, in media including, the *Daily Telegraph*, *BBC Radio Scotland*, the *Scottish Sun*, the *Herald* and the *Scotsman*.



An ambassador for life

Preparing for a 40,000-mile voyage that stops in 13 countries, Professor of Transplantation, Stephen Wigmore, is on a mission to promote the benefits of organ donation to the world.

By Claire Simpson

As a transplant surgeon, Professor Stephen Wigmore carries out work that doesn't just change lives – it saves them.

"It's hugely rewarding to see people go from being very ill to incredibly well in a short space of time," explains the surgeon, who in addition to his role as Consultant HPB and Transplant Surgeon at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary also has research and teaching responsibilities with the University as Professor of Transplantation.

"Patients with liver or kidney failure are often the sickest patients in the hospital and yet when they're transplanted their lives are absolutely transformed," he says. "We don't do transplants to make people just a little bit better, we expect them to get back to work, to have children, to do all the things that people without organ failure would do."

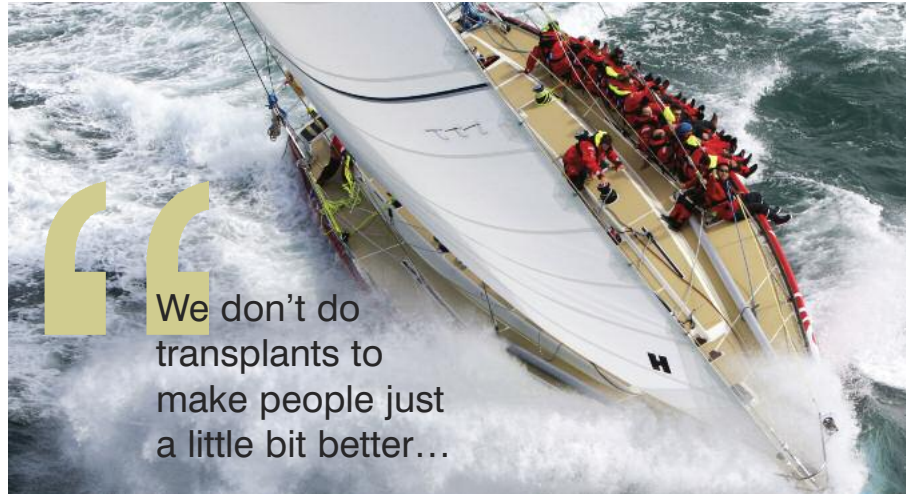
It's this message that the surgeon wants to communicate when he embarks upon an ambitious trip to sail around the world with transplant recipients this August. Inspired by a friend's journey on the Rio-to-Cape Town route of the Clipper 09–10 Round the World Yacht Race, the surgeon was fascinated by the prospect of trying something similar.

"From a personal point of view it would be quite a challenge and I thought it would be great if we took some transplant patients on the race to show people that these patients have a completely normal lifestyle and are able to do all the things that anyone else can do," he explains.

Joining him in the race will be his patient Alan Stewart (pictured above), who, following a prolonged period of unexplained ill health, was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy, a progressive illness that can result in total kidney failure. For Alan, renal failure was the prognosis and his treatment options were limited to lifelong dialysis or a transplant.

"One of the things I found most difficult was the disruption I caused to my whole family. Not just to my children and wife, but also to my father, my brother and my sister, who eventually gave me her kidney," says Alan.

Determined to maintain as much of a 'normal' life as possible, the Borders



We don't do transplants to make people just a little bit better...

schoolteacher opted for peritoneal dialysis, which while offering the patient greater independence can be a less effective treatment. But, in part through sheer effort and commitment, the approach was successful until he was ready to receive a new kidney, donated by his sister, following a period of intense discussions and thorough consultation.

As Alan recalls it was an emotional time, but on the morning of Wednesday 28 October 2009, he received his new kidney, and to this day, is still smiling. "I thought I was leading a full life when I was ill, but it's only now I realise that I wasn't able to do all the things I wanted to be doing," he says.

Stephen Wigmore was part of the medical team responsible for Alan's life-changing operation, and within 48 hours of the patient's transplant, the surgeon had invited him to be a part of his Transplant Ambassadors Project, after spotting a yachting magazine at his bedside.

"I don't know if I allowed him to finish the sentence before saying yes," recalls Alan, who saw the offer as an opportunity not only to satisfy a personal ambition but to raise awareness of a cause that he himself had benefitted so greatly from. Now fit and healthy, Alan has started the rigorous training programme required to attempt the feat.

The Clipper 11–12 Round the World Yacht Race begins in August. The race visits 13 countries and covers a distance of 40,000 miles, which is split into eight legs of varying lengths, from 3,390 to 7,400 nautical miles. Each leg takes

about four to six weeks to sail and the race will conclude in July 2012. Stephen and Alan will be part of a 10-strong team comprising medical professionals and transplanted organ recipients. The team will be represented on each leg of the race.

Participants undergo a five-week training course held at the Clipper Race headquarters in Gosport, UK. Supported by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust, the project must raise sufficient funds to enable the transplant recipients to take part on the trip. The medics are covering their own costs.

Each yachtsman will act as a 'transplant ambassador', promoting the benefits of organ donation throughout the trip, by engaging with the media in each of the countries visited. Stephen is keen to emphasise the positive aspects of organ donation, by focussing on what it can give rather than what may be taken away.

He states: "Transplantation is completely dependent on people's generosity, whether a living donor or deceased donor. We can't do transplants without the organs. So it's very important that people understand the benefit that people derive from having a transplant and the legacy they can leave by donating their organs after their death."

To find out more about the Clipper 11–12 Round the World Yacht Race, visit www.clipperroundtheworld.com.

To support the Transplant Ambassadors Project, visit <https://edinburghuni.workwithus.org/fundraising/donate.aspx?page=5939>.

Breaking the mould

This year is the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie's second Nobel Prize win. In 1911, the pioneering researcher was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in recognition of her revolutionary work in radioactivity. Her achievements as a woman and as a scientist have helped inspire many more females to make their mark on the world with groundbreaking research.

In celebration of this anniversary and to honour March's International Women's Day, bulletin profiles a small selection of the University's own female pioneers and asks them which women have influenced them.

Peter Tuffy



I think my
has been
of modelli
biological



I've had an amazingly varied career, and I've often been lucky with the opportunities that came my way. Working in universities has been a flexible experience too.

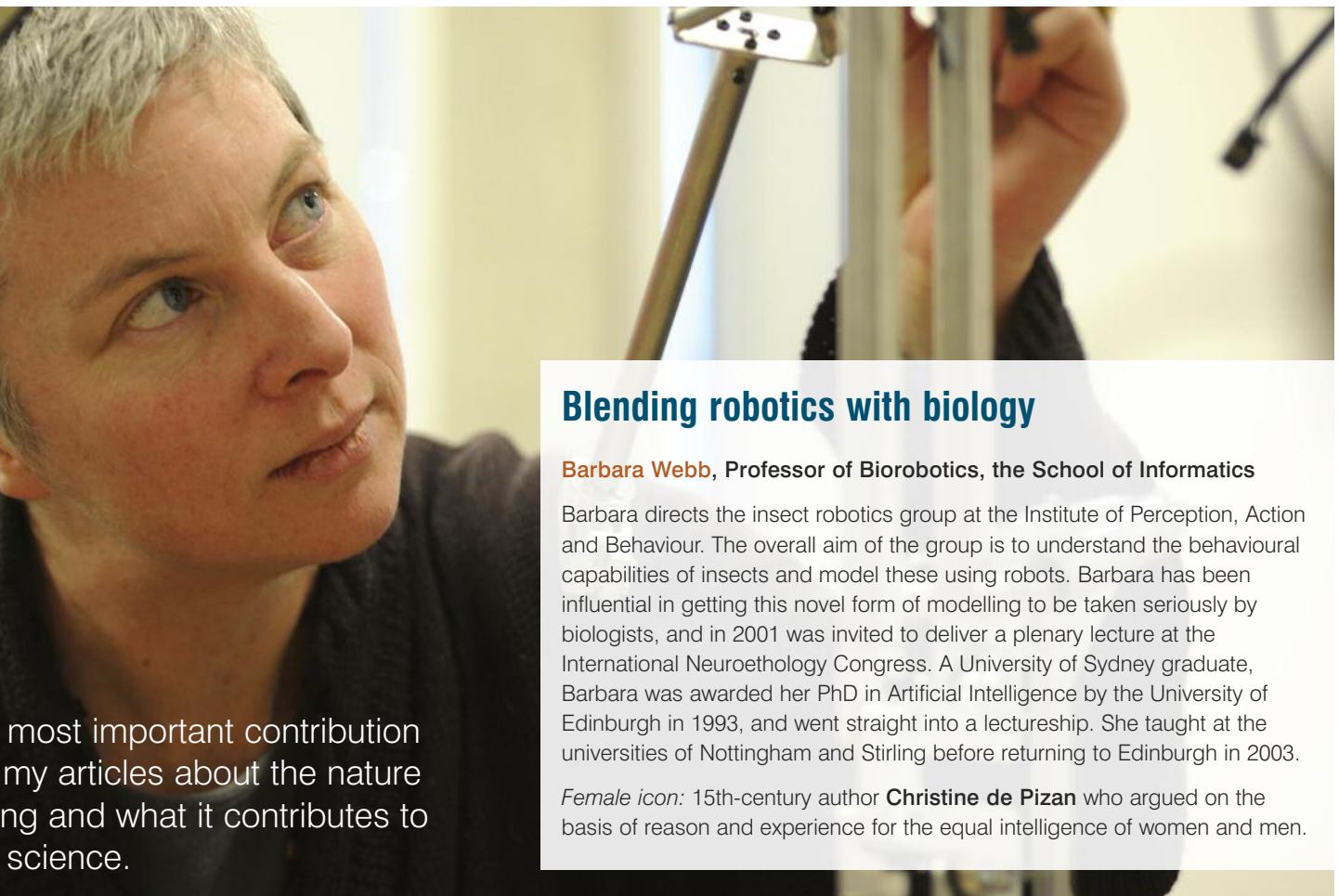
Defining citizenship

Professor Jo Shaw, Salvesen Chair of European Institutions, the School of Law, and Dean of Research and Deputy Head of the College of Humanities & Social Science

Jo's teaching and research focuses on the field of the EU constitution and institutions, particularly from a socio-legal and interdisciplinary perspective. The pinnacle of her career was 2009 when she secured major European Research Council funding for her five-year project on the Europeanisation of Citizenship in the Successor States of the Former Yugoslavia (CITSEE) (2009–2014). Involving multiple researchers, the project examines the citizenship regimes of the seven successor states of the former Yugoslavia. Jo is also Co-Director of the EUDO-Citizenship Observatory, among her many academic, administrative and teaching responsibilities.

Female icon: Anyone who has maintained her integrity through adversity.

Download Jo's inaugural lecture at www.law.ed.ac.uk/blogsandpodcasts/podcasts.aspx.



Blending robotics with biology

Barbara Webb, Professor of Biorobotics, the School of Informatics

Barbara directs the insect robotics group at the Institute of Perception, Action and Behaviour. The overall aim of the group is to understand the behavioural capabilities of insects and model these using robots. Barbara has been influential in getting this novel form of modelling to be taken seriously by biologists, and in 2001 was invited to deliver a plenary lecture at the International Neuroethology Congress. A University of Sydney graduate, Barbara was awarded her PhD in Artificial Intelligence by the University of Edinburgh in 1993, and went straight into a lectureship. She taught at the universities of Nottingham and Stirling before returning to Edinburgh in 2003.

Female icon: 15th-century author **Christine de Pizan** who argued on the basis of reason and experience for the equal intelligence of women and men.

most important contribution
my articles about the nature
ng and what it contributes to
science.

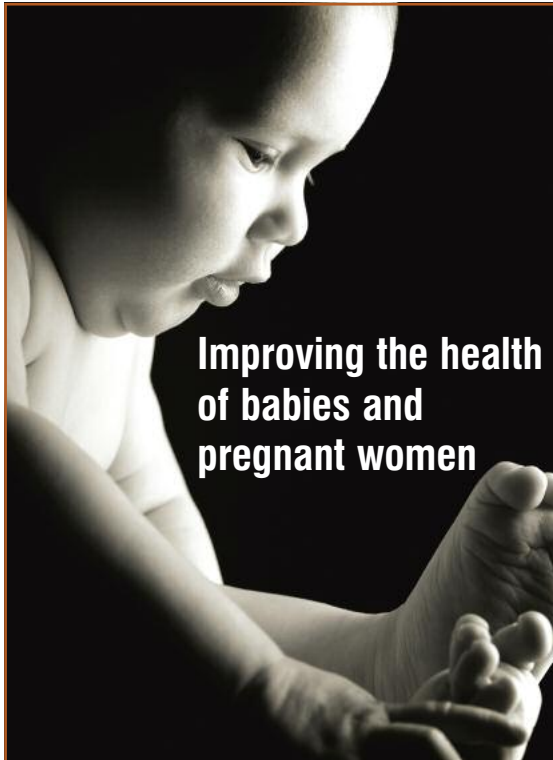
Helping to save the planet

Gabriele Hegerl, Professor of Climate System Science, the School of GeoSciences

In the mid 1990s, Gabriele wrote one of the first scientific papers to show that recently observed planetary warming was faster and different geographically than warming expected from natural causes. Her papers were the first to demonstrate that greenhouse gas increases played a large role in explaining this warming. Gabriele was one of the lead authors on the *Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report*, which contributed to earning the Panel a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. She is also the Principal Investigator for the International Detection and Attribution Group (IDAG), and has published and presented extensively around the world.

Female icon: Atmospheric chemist **Susan Solomon**, one of the first scientists to propose chlorofluorocarbons as the cause of the Antarctic ozone hole, and Co-Chair of Working Group 1 of the IPCC.

“I had very exciting times working as a young scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, and the department of Atmospheric Sciences in Seattle; and I am very much enjoying myself in Edinburgh now.”



Improving the health of babies and pregnant women

I hope that our work will allow us to develop effective treatments for preterm labour, and improve the health of the babies of women with this condition.

Jane Norman, Professor of Maternal and Fetal Health, the School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health

More than 50,000 babies are born preterm in the UK each year, and many of these babies will die or have major disabilities as a result of preterm birth. Jane's work plays a significant role in helping the chances of these infants. Her research group was the first to demonstrate that the biological process of inflammation is a key feature of normal human labour. The Edinburgh medical graduate also led the team that set up the Edinburgh Tommy's Centre for Maternal and Fetal Health, enabled by a donation from pregnancy and birth charity Tommy's. The Centre is beginning to produce exciting results that will be important in improving the health of pregnant women and their babies.

Female icon: **Marie Curie**, Nobel Prize winner and first female professor at the University of Paris.

Creating new possibilities through technology

I have been more successful in recent years. I think this reflects the different career trajectory that is more common for women with families.

Professor Helen Sang, Personal Chair in Vertebrate Molecular Development, the Roslin Institute of the University of Edinburgh

Helen hit the headlines with her most recently published research on the production of genetically modified chickens, signalling the large-scale impact for this work. In collaboration with Laurence Tiley's lab at the University of Cambridge, this research demonstrates the potential for using the genetic modification of chickens to enhance the health of chickens and also to reduce the incidence of bird flu, consequently minimising the risk of it crossing over to humans and initiating a new pandemic (see page 6). Helen was appointed Chair in 2010 and elected to the fellowships of the Institute of Biology and the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2008.

Female icon: Nobel Prize-winning scientist **Dorothy Hodgkin**, who developed the field of protein X-ray crystallography, which is hugely important in many areas of biology and in pharmaceuticals development.


Reaching out through language

Combining a successful career with a happy family life has been one of my greatest achievements.

Antonella Sorace, Professor of Developmental Linguistics, the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences

Antonella has established, both in Edinburgh and internationally, a 'big-tent' interdisciplinary approach towards the study of language and cognition in bilingualism at all ages. She has made a major contribution to making linguistics an experimental field and her Bilingualism Matters project bridges the gap between research and society. Reflecting her commitment to outreaching research, she was awarded a Beltane Fellowship for Public Engagement in 2009. She is a part-time Visiting Professor for the University of Tromsø in Norway, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Female icons: Existential philosopher **Simone de Beauvoir**, Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori and Israeli linguist and writer Tanya Reinhart.

 www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk



Dr Kenneth Amaeshi, a recent addition to the University of Edinburgh Business School's academic

team, talks to *bulletin* about why he wants to build a corporate social responsibility community at the University.

Located in Scotland's financial centre, the University of Edinburgh is well placed to take the lead on corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy and research, according to Dr Kenneth Amaeshi. The timing is pertinent too, the business lecturer firmly believes, given media and societal reactions to the global financial crisis.

Kenneth has spent about 10 years specialising in the area of corporate responsibility and sustainability research, executive education and consulting. He joined the University of Edinburgh in September as Senior Lecturer in Strategy

and International Business, and prior to this appointment he held academic roles at the Warwick Business School and the Cranfield School of Management.

"My interests have been around corporate social responsibilities in global economies, following up what is happening here in the West and trying to bridge the ideas between here and developing countries. My research mainly focuses on CSR in developing and emerging economies," he explains.

This semester, Kenneth is running an MBA course on international business and corporate responsibility. He says: "There's significant interest. Students are hungry for this and they want to know what some of these issues are. It would be a shame if Edinburgh is not at the forefront of CSR discourse and practice. I think the University has a lot to give."

To help position the University as a CSR leader, Kenneth is keen to engage with colleagues in other Schools and Colleges within the University, as well as with other University researchers, whose interests cross over into the field, and galvanise their expertise to form an interdisciplinary

corporate responsibility and governance network.

He explains: "This network is a way of bringing us together to share ideas and find ways for collaborating. It could be a good way for pursuing research grants, enhancing our teaching, and it may create opportunities for us publishing together, particularly on cross-disciplinary collaborations."

Kenneth is also keen to use the network to engage with practitioners in the field and to perhaps host public lectures and seminars to close the gap between what the academics are discovering and with what those actively involved with business or industry are doing.

As he points out: "If I'm a chemist or chemical engineer, my experiment would be in the lab but as a scholar in the Business School, where is my lab? My lab is 'out there' and I need to go out and find out what businesses are doing in practice, to be able to interact and share knowledge."

To get involved, contact Kenneth at kenneth.amaeshi@ed.ac.uk.



Blacksmith Kit Sked, working in a smiddy in Cousland, Midlothian



Jeannie Gibson, harvesting, Mull, 1988

From Bletchley Park to George Square

“The Archives are a dynamic powerhouse for teaching and research.”

This year, the School of Scottish Studies Archives celebrates its 60th anniversary. Former Director Dr Margaret Mackay documents its history.

The School of Scottish Studies was established in 1951 under the guidance of Angus McIntosh, Forbes Professor of English Language and General Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. Through wartime experience at Bletchley Park, he learnt how effective a team approach to research allied to new technology such as magnetic tape could be, and he sought to apply this to folklore, folklife, dialect and place-name studies.

Encouraged by his friends, folklorists John Lorne Campbell of Canna and his wife Margaret Fay Shaw, and supported by Sir Edward Appleton, the then Principal of the University, McIntosh worked with archives in Sweden and Ireland and received much practical help.

The School's first full-time collector, Calum Maclean, was trained by the Irish Folklore Commission in Dublin. He was later joined by Hamish Henderson, who with Calum had assisted American song collector Alan Lomax during his 1951 trip to Scotland with his project to map and publish the world of folk music with Columbia Records.

With others they were soon building up a unique and still-growing collection of songs, stories, rhymes, instrumental music, narratives, customs, beliefs, oral history and much more, in both Gaelic and Scots, throughout Scotland and the diaspora. Much of this is available at www.tobarandualchis.co.uk. An associated photographic archive and an ethnographic research library were also

Images supplied by Dr Cathlin Macaulay. Photography by Ian Mackenzie.



Sandy Paton



R. Morton



created. A reputation for high standards of stewardship has brought many donations to the Archives, including the Kissling and Atkinson photographs, John Levy recordings, and Will Forret and Gus MacDonald disc collections.

From the folk revival of the 1950s and 1960s to today's vibrant contemporary music scene in Scotland, the School of Scottish Studies Archives have been and are a vital resource. The collection's international reputation attracts scholars, media, publishers and artists worldwide seeking inspiration. As one of the University of Edinburgh's prized collections, the Archives are a dynamic powerhouse for teaching and research in Celtic and Scottish Studies.

Celebrating history

Activities throughout 2011 to celebrate the Archives' diamond jubilee include an artists' archive residency (www.archivetrails.com); a CD launch in Perth (25 May); a symposium on the collector Alexander Carmichael in Edinburgh (23–24 June); a major conference in Shetland in association with the Islands Book Trust (24–26 August); a St Andrew's Day Concert featuring Artist in Residence Jean Redpath; radio programmes; fundraising for diamond jubilee bursaries; and publication of the 60th edition of *Tocher*, the archive journal (www.celtscot.ed.ac.uk).

Clockwise from top left: St Ronan's Festival parade, 1986; Hamish Henderson recording Ali Dall Stewart, Sutherland, 1958; cloth walking, lochdar, South Uist, 1970; the Burryman, South Queensferry, 1986; Dr Kath Campbell with 106-year-old Mrs Lizzie Angus, Ellon, 2000.

A sceptic for our times?



Though one of the University's most prestigious alumni, David Hume was denied a Chair at Edinburgh as a result of his religious scepticism. Marking the tercentenary of the philosopher's birth, Professor David Fergusson examines whether the man really did reject faith.

Illustration: evvannave, fourth-year student, Edinburgh College of Art
www.evvannave.co.uk



David Fergusson

The tercentenary of the birth of David Hume (1711–76) provides an opportunity for an appraisal of the outstanding figure of the Scottish Enlightenment and one of the University's most distinguished alumni. In an age marked less than our own by rigid disciplinary boundaries and narrow specialism, Hume wrote as a philosopher, social scientist and historian. It is in the first of these fields that his reputation ranks highest – many today would regard him as the leading British philosopher.

Hume may be characterised as a sceptical naturalist. Rationalist justification of some of our most intuitively held beliefs – the independent world of physical objects, our conscious selves, other minds, the objectivity of moral and aesthetic values – is not achievable. These are subject to sceptical attack throughout his writings. At the same time, he argues, we find ourselves inescapably committed to believing in these, largely

through the force of 'custom and habit'. Understanding these natural processes gives us better insight into who we are and how we should live, although this results in a more deflated view of the world and our place in it than that attempted by the projects of other philosophers.

It is in the study of religion that Hume's scepticism has been most influential. The Enlightenment may have flourished on the soil of Scottish Presbyterianism – several of its leading figures being clergymen – but Hume provides sustained criticism of religious belief and practice. As a young man, Hume appears decisively to have rejected all brands of institutional Christianity. If at times concealed, his religious scepticism is prevalent in his writings.

The standard argument for God's existence in the 18th century was the design argument. It was claimed that evidence of order and harmony in the planetary motions, in organs such as the human eye, and in the adaptation of species to environment all signified intelligent design by God. In face of this,




Hume weakens the argument by a range of criticisms that ever since have set the terms of the debate. These are set out in his posthumous work *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. The appearance of design may be explained by other hypotheses, he argues, or perhaps there is no explanation at all, with the ancient Epicurean philosophy of chance remaining a possibility. Moreover, even if design is conceded, the designer may have attributes quite different from the God of classical Judeo-Christian theism. And, in any case, the world appears to contain many design flaws. Improvements can easily be conjectured, thus further diminishing the inference to a perfect deity.

In an essay on miracles, he argues that reports of these are never credible and ought always to be dismissed in favour of some alternative explanation. The weight of evidence required to give credence to a reported miracle will also be less than the probability attached to some other account of what really happened.


When dealing with the actual history of religious belief and practice, Hume

argues that this too is best explained in natural terms by a process of projection, of attributing agency to hidden causal processes and of seeking to promote our tribal identities through aggrandising local conceptions of the deity. In all this, Hume expresses a preference for the polytheism of the Graeco-Roman world. Its belief and practices are preferable, largely because they are harmless and more hospitable to virtues such as tolerance and generosity.

Was Hume an agnostic or an atheist? While there may be a residual commitment to the possibility of God at the end of *Dialogues*, it seems that this notion must remain distant and imprecise to human intellects. Moreover, it ought not to exercise any influence upon the way we live in society or understand ourselves. To this extent, Hume is practically an atheist and he appears to have lived (and died) quite cheerfully and without recourse to religious affections or sensibilities. The sense of God that animated other thinkers as different as Pascal, Hegel and Wittgenstein is largely absent from his writings.

In contrast to the tone of much of today's new atheist literature, Hume wrote calmly and in urbane mood. His writings bear the marks of lucidity and humour, while he succeeded in maintaining friendships with many of the leading moderate clergy of his day. Given that in 1745 he was refused a Chair in Edinburgh largely on account of clerical objections, this was no small achievement. The understanding of science, art, ethics, religion and consciousness may continue to generate fundamental disagreement, but the lasting significance of Hume's contribution to these debates is not in doubt. 

David Fergusson is Professor of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh and author of *Faith and Its Critics: A Conversation* (Oxford University Press, 2009). As part of the University's Hume tercentenary celebrations, Professor Fergusson will present a lecture called 'Hume as Religious Sceptic' on Friday 30 September.

 Visit www.ed.ac.uk/about/video/lecture-series/hume/introduction for full details of the Hume-related events planned to mark the anniversary.

people news

SMART pioneer wins Principal's Medal

Paul Nisbet, Senior Research Fellow with the University's School of Education and Joint Coordinator of its Call Scotland centre, has been awarded the Principal's Medal 2010.

The award recognises staff or students who, as individuals or groups, have made a significant contribution to support or benefit the wider community.

Based within the Institute of Education, Teaching and Leadership, CALL Scotland provides specialist technology expertise for children educated in Scotland who have problems with speech, communication and writing. Through his work at this innovative centre, Paul (pictured) has helped to make a difference to the educational lives of many children throughout Scotland.

With a background in engineering, Paul has pioneered or helped to develop a number of technological solutions to the learning barriers experienced by children with learning or physical disabilities.

Among these is the SMART wheelchair, which Paul designed with Phil Odor. The computer-controlled wheelchair helps children with severe and multiple disabilities to interact with their environment and experience new opportunities for communication, learning and play.



The Principal's Medal for Outstanding Service

The University is launching a new Principal's Medal to mark outstanding service. This award will be presented in addition to the existing prize honouring services to the community.



For more information about the new prize visit www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin/staff-award-070311.

Ann McKay receives royal honour

Retired International Student Adviser Ann McKay received an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours.

Ann (pictured with one of her students) joined the University in 1972, working with the Department of Bacteriology. She remained with the University almost continuously ever since, and for the last 14 years worked at the International Office.

Ann has played a huge role in supporting the thousands of international students who come to study at the University by welcoming them on arrival, supporting them with transport assistance on Christmas Day and offering guidance.

"Ann has approached her role as a front-line ambassador, ensuring that international students and their families are not only provided with professional guidance and advice, but are offered a friendly face and support at times when it is most required," says Alan Mackay, Head of the International Office. "Ann has a remarkable talent when counselling international students – combining passion and sensitivity with a sound common-sense approach."

- Also recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours was Dr Lindsay Burley, an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University, who received a CBE.





Caught on Camera

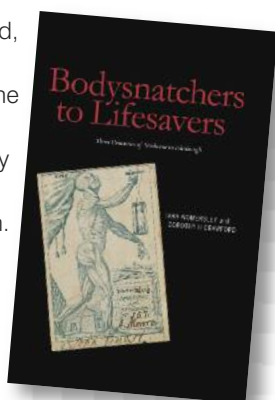
Equine specialist Matt Hanks was one of the stars of the second series of STV's *Vet School* documentary about the day-to-day running of the Dick Vet. It aired in six parts throughout March and April. Series one was broadcast in Spring 2010.

Unravelling Edinburgh's medical history

Professor Dorothy Crawford, Assistant Principal Public Understanding of Medicine and University Press and Public Relations Officer Tara Womersley have written a book on the history of medicine in Edinburgh.

Centred around the 280-year history of the University's medical school, *Bodysnatchers to Lifesavers* (Luath Press) recounts developments in public health and highlights medical advances in anaesthesia, surgery and antiseptics.

It tells the stories of famous Edinburgh medical alumni such as Professor James Syme, who in the pre-anaesthetics era was reputed to be able to amputate a leg in 90 seconds, and Professor Sir James Young Simpson, who discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. Following an experiment at home,



Professor Simpson woke up on his dining room floor to find one colleague unconscious beneath a chair and another kicking the legs of the supper table.

Also included is the tale of successful doctor James Barry who, despite a 40-year career as an army medic, was upon death discovered to be a woman. Shortly after Barry's death the first women were admitted to study medicine at Edinburgh.

The book also covers up-to-date details of more recent medical developments at Edinburgh, such as revolutionary treatment for tuberculosis, the creation of a synthetic vaccine for hepatitis B and the cloning of Dolly the Sheep.

Visit www.luath.co.uk for more information.

Role play ✱



Name: Lesley Pert
Role: Health & Safety Adviser
Department: Accommodation Services

What is your role at the University?

My role is to develop and review Accommodation Service's health and safety procedures and to audit and monitor what is happening with regards to health and safety. I provide guidance to ensure the department is complying with current health and safety legislation and I'm also involved with the department's health and safety training.

Why does the University need someone to do your job?

To safeguard staff, students, contractors and visitors who are affected by our activities.

What essential qualities and skills does a person need to do your job?

You need to be able to ensure that procedures and policies introduced are workable. Health and safety is not usually a top priority in a busy work environment, so patience and a good memory is essential.

What are the best elements of your job?

Working with people to help them resolve problems and develop user-friendly health and safety procedures in their areas of work.

And the worst...?

If accidents do occur, you wonder what could have been done differently to prevent someone being injured.

In another life, what job would you be doing?

Apart from being a scuba diver off the Great Barrier Reef, I would have liked to have worked with children with special needs.

If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague for this slot, please email bulletin@ed.ac.uk.

Honorary degree for race equality expert



Dr Rowena Arshad, Head of the University's Institute for Education, Community and Society, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education from Edinburgh Napier University.

Rowena is also Associate Dean for Student Academic Misconduct within the College of Humanities & Social Science and convenes the University's Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland.

Dr Arshad has worked in the area of equality in England and Scotland, since 1983. She has been on the Scotland Committee of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and has been a

member of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council.

She has also held the role of Equal Opportunities Commissioner for Scotland. With colleagues, she set up the Linknet Mentoring Initiative in Edinburgh, which provides minority ethnic people with mentoring support into education and employment.

Her current areas of academic research explore social justice issues and perceptions of equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination, both within teacher education. She was awarded an OBE in 2001 for services to race equality.

Obituary

Lady Elaine Tyre (1956–2010)



The School of Law is deeply saddened by the death on Sunday 12 December 2010 of Lady Elaine Tyre.

Elaine was a double graduate of the University of Edinburgh, receiving a BA in History and Politics and an LLB. She qualified as a solicitor with Shepherd & Wedderburn before joining the staff of the then Law Faculty in 1980 as a part-time tutor. She taught at both LLB and Diploma in Legal Practice level for many years, before she was appointed as Deputy Director of the Legal Practice Unit in 2002. She was promoted to the post of Director of Professional Legal Studies in 2010.

Elaine's contribution to the Legal Practice Unit was immense: she organised and taught on several diploma courses and was a Director of

Studies to many students; she coached the student team each year in the Scottish Client Counselling Competition; she coordinated the development of the Professional Competence Course at Edinburgh, which was introduced by the Law Society of Scotland for all trainees; and she conceived the idea of the Law School offering a part-time diploma.

Elaine's impact on the University's wider community and beyond was equally huge. She acted as Schools Liaison Officer on behalf of the Law School, she sat on numerous Law Society committees and was a key figure in the ongoing reform of legal education in Scotland. She lectured on pensions at University retirement conferences and taught law to engineering and veterinary medicine students.

Elaine was always full of new ideas and one of her greatest achievements was the establishment, with the help of an

Alumni Fund grant, of the University's Free Legal Advice Centre in 2007.

Elaine was a very sociable individual. She took a special interest in the annual group of Eurolawyers and in 2009 she formed the Law School Choir, whose inaugural concert in March 2010 raised several hundred pounds for the Free Legal Advice Centre.

Elaine was supported all the way by her husband Colin, a former lecturer in the Law School, and her children, Kirsty, Catriona and Euan. Perhaps Elaine's defining characteristic was her capacity to love. Her tragically premature death has left a large gap in so many people's lives. The School of Law was the richer for her presence and is the poorer for her loss.

*Dr Andrew Steven
Senior Lecturer, the School of Law*

health & wellbeing



Top 10 tips for safe travel

Janet Craig, the University's Occupational Health Manager, offers expert advice to help you stay healthy on holiday.

- 1** Always find out if there are any ongoing health risks associated with your destination. Some may be preventable with prior planning.
- 2** Contact a health professional for travel health advice before you go.
- 3** Pack a small first-aid kit in your hold luggage. Make sure you take enough of any regular medications.
- 4** Avoid close contact with animals.
- 5** Be vigilant when eating and drinking out. Watch how drinks are prepared, ensure that bottle seals are intact, avoid salads that may have been prepared by rinsing in local water, always ensure that meat is thoroughly cooked through and pay particular attention to shellfish freshness.
- 6** Avoiding getting bitten by insects. Use a good insect repellent and a repellent-impregnated mosquito net, avoid exposing skin at sundown when mosquitoes come out to feed and use prescribed anti-malarial medication.
- 7** Don't paddle or swim in slow-flowing water.
- 8** Take plenty sunscreen with a high SPF.
- 9** Ensure you have adequate travel insurance for your destination.
- 10** Find out how to apply for or renew a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which entitles you to free or reduced-cost treatment in the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

Need to know more? Visit www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk.

Centre supports healthy minds

The Centre for Integrative Physiology has become the University's first department to achieve the Healthy Working Lives Mental Health and Wellbeing Commendation award. The research centre is one of around 20 Scottish workplaces to be granted this accreditation.

The award sets a standard for good practice in promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in the workplace.

It also recognises efforts to support staff with mental health problems and reduce barriers to recruitment for people affected by poor mental health.

Centre staff have been working towards the award for four years. The team, which also secured the Gold Healthy Working Lives award in 2005, will continue work to reduce the stigma of mental ill health as part of a three-year action plan.

Start running

The University's Centre for Sports & Exercise offers beginners' running workshops, run by former Estates & Buildings employee Billy Braidwood. The courses run in four-week blocks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Bookings should be made through CSE reception.

Find out more at www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise/sports-centre/classes-workshops/workshops/running.

Be aware of bowel cancer

Someone is diagnosed with bowel cancer every 15 minutes, according to figures from national charity Bowel Cancer UK. The organisation is using the month of April to promote awareness of the disease, which affects one in 20 people in the UK.

To find out more about how to reduce your risk of bowel cancer, screening programmes or common symptoms associated with the disease, visit www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk.

Spot the difference

Win a meal for two (up to the value of £60) at Gusto's Edinburgh restaurant by finding five differences in our Spot the Difference puzzle. Compare the two pictures on the right. The image on the far right differs from the one on its left. Circle each difference and send in your entry by **Friday 6 May**. Correct entries will be placed in a draw and a winner will be selected at random. Send your entry and email address to our address on page 2. Last edition's winner was Security Officer Kenny McDonald, who won Scottish Opera tickets.



GUSTO is delighted to offer all University of Edinburgh staff **20% off the total food bill*** with GUSTO Dining Club Membership.

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*discount only valid when a booking has been made online using the above link.



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Good news, the University has year-round accommodation at special VAT free prices; if booked via MyEd:

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A beautifully restored 18th-century mansion-house hotel with 36 modern en-suite bedrooms.

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Located at Pollock Halls, it's modern and extremely comfortable with 120 en-suite rooms.

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Kenneth Mackenzie **

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For sale: piano

Compact, modern, ebony enamelled Reid-Sohn S108s (108 centimetres). Overstrung, seven-octave keyboard. Excellent condition. Buyer to collect (main door). £950.
Email norma.brearley@gmail.com or telephone 01968 677117 (evenings).

To let

Fully furnished flat, Edinburgh Southside

Stunning one-bedroom flat on the Pleasance overlooking Arthur's Seat University, Scottish Parliament and Waverley Station 10/15mins walk. Lounge fitted kitchen with washing machine, double bedroom and wet room £550.00 monthly + bills.

Email karenurquhart@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 0131 669 3931.

WANTED: ACCOMMODATION

New research fellow taking up position in the Anthropology Department looking for a short-term let, summer house sit or tenancy arrangement somewhere in central Edinburgh from May–September 2011. Prepared to pay reasonable rent, tend gardens, feed dogs/cats, etc.
Email jamiejcross@gmail.com or telephone 00675 7378-9057 (Papua New Guinea mobile).

Holiday let

Mid Argyll

Corrarie Cottage located three miles to Kilberry and 10 miles from Tarbert. Three bedrooms (sleeps max five), area of outstanding natural beauty not far from beach. Wood-burning stove and large garden. Wildlife, walks and local award-winning inn. Staff discount. Visit www.corrariecottage.co.uk or email mail@corrariecottage.co.uk.

France

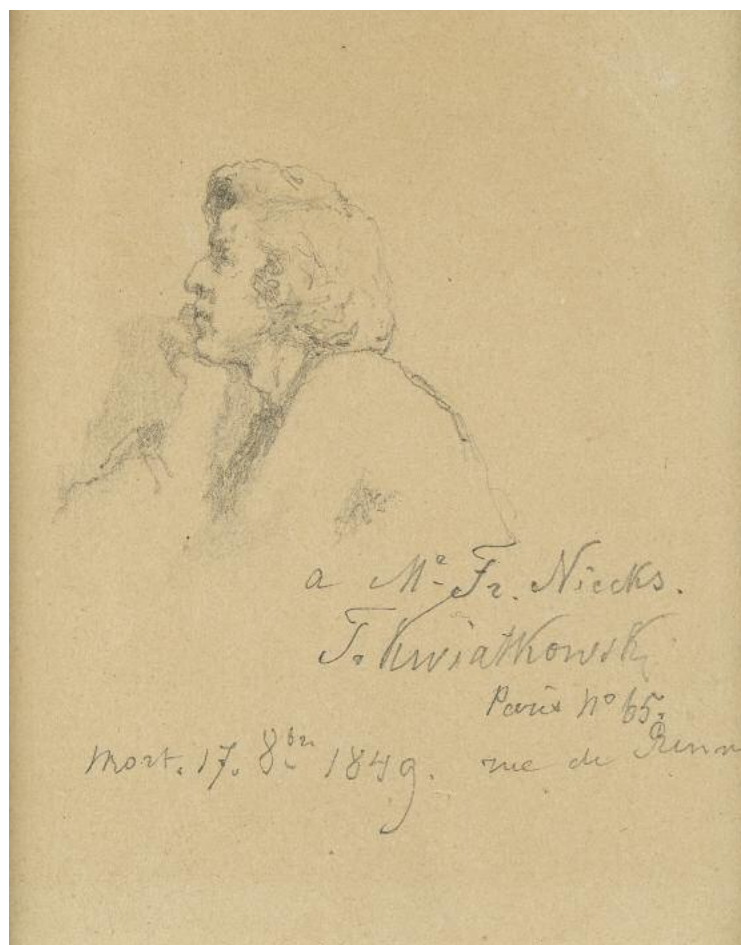
Holiday house on Dordogne/Charente border. Rural setting. Sleeps 10. Large garden, bicycles. Five miles from market town (Riberac). Lake swimming, three miles. Ideal for families. Rent €15 euros/head/night (> age of 16 yrs). Contact Olivia.schofield@luht.scot.nhs.uk.

For sale: Haddington home

Haddington, superb family house in walled garden with five bedrooms, 5,000 sq. feet luxury accommodation, beautiful views and three acres of land (three bedroom cottage available separately). Offers over £1,400,000. Tel 07977182108.

For sale: Liberton cottage

Liberton, 169 Alnwick Hill Road. Modern detached cottage with garden and parking. Includes hall, sitting room, breakfasting kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, central heating. ESPC ref. 285130. Fixed price £179,000. Tel 07977182108.



Showcase

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

Composers' collection

This fascinating collection, now fully digitised, contains original manuscript letters by the composers Frederic Chopin, Franz Liszt and Clara Schumann, and a life drawing of Chopin. The collection was donated in 1943 by the sister of Professor Frederick Niecks' widow. Niecks, a musician, teacher and musical biographer, was appointed as the University's Reid Professor of Music in 1890. The letters by Liszt and Schumann were written to him in response to his appeals for information for his biographies.