



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

bulletin*



SUMMER 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE



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bulletin*

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Published by: Communications and Marketing, the University of Edinburgh

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SUBMISSION DETAILS

If you would like to submit an idea for an article, or tell us about some news or an event you wish to promote, please contact us at the editor's email address above in advance of the next deadline. The autumn edition of *bulletin* will be published in October, and the deadline for submissions is 31 August.

To keep up to date with news online, visit our new Staff Bulletin service at www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin.



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Front cover: Staircase carving, St Leonard's Hall.
Photography: Stewart Bremner.

editorial

Did you know that there are more than 200 buildings in the University estate? Our buildings range from the very old to the state of the art, from the functional to the grand. We have hospitals, flats, farmland and theatres, as well as acres of teaching and learning space. In the summer edition of *bulletin*, we highlight some overlooked places in the University's estate. If you have any additional suggestions, we'd love to hear about them.

On pages 10–11, we profile the EUSA teaching awards, a student-led initiative that puts teaching excellence at Edinburgh under the spotlight. On page 15, tying in with the Year of Darwin, artist Ilana Halperin talks about her geological lava project for the Talbot Rice Gallery's forthcoming *An Entangled Bank* exhibition. To mark the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Parliament, University academics Charlie Jeffery and Navraj Ghaleigh offer their own perspectives on its achievements and disappointments in our Opinion section, pages 12–14.

We have also launched Staff Bulletin, an online news service for employees of the University. It can be accessed at www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin.

If you'd like to respond to our opinion pages or have any feedback about the magazine, we'd love to hear from you. Send an email to bulletin@ed.ac.uk.



The *Aberdeen Breviary*, an ancient prayer book from the University's Collection. See our Showcase segment on the back page to find out more.

Main Library launches new ground floor

Study pods, a contemporary café and an artistic ode to its founder Clement Litill are among the many new features that were unveiled at the opening of the Main Library's new-look ground floor this month.

Director of Library Services, Sheila Cannell, said: "We look forward to welcoming staff and students to the newly developed ground floor. It is exciting to see this in place, after several years of planning and hard work, with architects, builders and our own staff.

"On this floor, we want to see vibrant interaction among library users to complement the quieter space already completed on the fifth and sixth floors. The ground floor preserves the best of the original Basil Spence 1960s building, while updating it for today's users."

The ground floor's redesign is part of the ongoing Main Library redevelopment project that will transform the Library into a modern study facility, better suited to meet the needs of students and researchers in the 21st century.

On the new ground floor students can enjoy group work in study pods that can accommodate groups of up to seven students in a semi-private spaces that allow quiet conversation.



21st-century study: new pods for group work

Digital projection screens display images from the collections and words from catalogue searches as they happen. The High-Use Book (HUB) collection is also located on the ground floor.

The new café overlooks George Square and offers a healthy range of affordable food and drink in a modern and comfortable setting, with some fixed PCs available for access to internet or email.

The outside podium area displays artwork by Scottish artist Alec Finlay embedded into the concrete slabs. It is a poetic representation of the original inscription on the books owned by the Library's founder, Clement Litill.

The new ground floor complements the work already completed on the fifth and sixth floor with the Centre for Research Collections and quiet study space. Work on the next phase of the redevelopment, the first floor, begins shortly and will continue into early 2010.

Multiple awards for campus masterpiece

The University's Potterrow development has received a slew of awards since it opened for business last summer.

The development has been honoured for both design and sustainability, picking up awards from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Carbon Trust, among others.

The project, which comprises the Informatics Forum and the neighbouring Dugald Stewart Building, has re-housed staff and students from the Schools of Informatics and Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, and created space for a new Visitor's Centre.

The University's Estates and Buildings Director, Angus Currie, said: "The growing list of design and other awards bestowed upon the Potterrow development is independent testimony to the success of the project from which staff in the Schools of Informatics and PPLS are already reaping major benefits. From a town planning perspective perspective, the



Potterrow development has been a successful contribution, bringing a coherence to the University's Central Area, linking Bristo Square and George Square and providing a significant improvement to the public realm."

AWARDS FOR POTTERROW

RIBA Award 2009

Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) Andy Doolan Prize 2008 for Best Building in Scotland

RICS Scotland Scottish Building Project of the Year

RICS Scotland Sustainability Award

British Council for Offices (BCO) Award for Best Corporate Office Building Scotland 2009

Scottish Design Awards, Sustainable Design 2009

Scottish Design Awards, Chairman's Award 2009

Scottish Design Awards, Public Building 2009

Carbon Trust Sustainability Award 2009, Highly Commended

Edinburgh Architectural Association (EAA) Award for Building of the Year 2009, Commended

BREEAM Excellent rating

University campus takes centre stage at Festival Fringe

The University's central campus will once again play a large role in this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The University, in conjunction with the Confucius Institute, will welcome the Beijing Film Academy to the McEwan Hall for its adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The production, created by some of the team behind the Beijing Olympics' opening ceremony, will mix music, dance and martial arts. The McEwan Hall will also host Silent Disco.

Appleton Tower will, this year, provide a new home for the Fringe Performers' Centre, creating a space for participants to network and meet throughout the event. George Square Gardens will host Hullabaloo, a wooden tent offering a varied programme of events.

The University's Festivals Office has also been working with theatre company Fuel, which will produce a range of site-specific shows that will feature across the campus.

Concession rates for Festivals Office shows are available for University staff, by showing a valid staff card, subject to availability. Call the Box Office on 0131 651 1292.

Visit www.festivals.ed.ac.uk for more details.



Bristo Square

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS VENUES

- C Venues at Adam House
- Pleasance Theatre at Potterrow and Pleasance Venues
- Gilded Balloon at Teviot Row
- Assembly Theatre at New College
- Underbelly at the Reid Hall and Bristo Square



Internationalisation strategy launches

The University has officially launched its new internationalisation strategy, *Edinburgh Global*, at an event at Pollock Halls.

Guests at the launch were welcomed by the Principal and heard from guest speakers BBC World Affairs correspondent Alan Little and Michael Russell MSP, Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, who are both Edinburgh alumni.

Professor Stephen Hillier, Vice-Principal (International), presented the award of International Student of the Year 2009 to Liapeng Matsau from South Africa.

More information about the strategy can be found in the International Office's enclosed *Edinburgh Global* insert.

University to reform Academic Governance

The University is to begin an overhaul of academic governance. Changes will include the replacement of existing committees such as Academic Policy, Senatus Undergraduate, Postgraduate Studies and the Senatus Quality Assurance and Enhancement with new, better targeted groups. These new committees will take over formal responsibility from September 2009.

The committees will set advanced and planned agendas better targeted to University, College and School priorities. Committee convenors will work together to identify the issues of most importance to staff and students, and action on those issues will be carried out by task groups that will involve a wider range of staff and students at an earlier stage.

New members are needed for both the committees and the task groups. Some members will automatically be recruited to certain committees due to their specific roles

but convenors will also be able to co-opt members. Individuals who have significant experience in innovation in the relevant area, substantial interest in enhancing the student experience and competence (or a desire to build experience) in educational change management, would be considered.

For the task groups, students who are also interested in getting involved with the development of the University would be welcome.

Get involved

If you wish to take part in the committees or task groups or have any comments about possible priorities, please email academic.governance@ed.ac.uk.

For more information about the new committees and task group activities, visit www.academicaffairs.ed.ac.uk/acgovernance/index.htm.

New policy widens access to life-saving medicines

The University has made a pioneering move to encourage pharmaceutical companies to offer cheaper life-saving medicine to Third World countries.

Following a staff and student campaign, led by Professor David Webb of the School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, the University has agreed to change the terms of research licensing agreements to include conditions that their medicines should be made as widely available as possible, particularly to poorer countries.

The campaign stems from an American student-led movement – Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) – that is now building around the UK. Branches of the group have been established at a number of UK universities, including Edinburgh, with the aim of widening access to all medicines developed through university research.

Professor Webb said: "The University has an existing portfolio of world-class research into neglected diseases, which represents one of the largest groups of researchers working on these diseases in the UK, and possibly Europe. We felt it was important to take a lead in ensuring that this publicly funded research was translated for the public good."

It is hoped that other universities around the UK adopt similar policies to maximise the public benefit of their medical research.



The policy demonstrates how seriously this University takes the issues of public health.

He adds: "The policy demonstrates how seriously this University takes the issues of public health. It also opens possibilities to form partnerships with other organisations like the Gates Foundation and the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative, all of which are focused on finding new ways to improve global health."

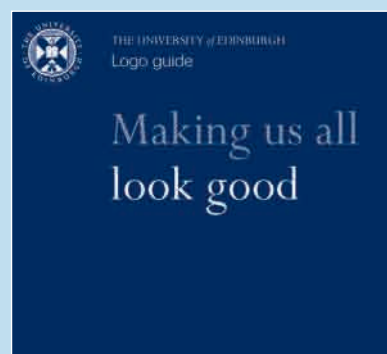
New Logo Guide available

An updated version of the University's Logo Guide is now available.

The guide can be found at the Communications and Marketing website at: www.cam.ed.ac.uk/guidelines.html.

Our logo represents the University both internally and externally. It is our key visual identity. Usage of the logo must be consistent, and the new guidelines offer instruction on how it should be applied, including guidance about colours, typeface and positioning.

A hard copy of the guide can be requested from the University's Marketing Manager Deepthi de Silva-Williams. You can also request logos from Deepthi at: deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk.



Students granted more revision time

Senate has approved a revision of the academic year, giving students a week's extra revision time.

The changes will come into effect at the beginning of 2011/12.

Both EUSA and academic staff have been keen to see changes to the amount of teaching and revision time currently available to students, since the semester system was first put in place.

Vice-Principal Simon van Heyningen, who chaired the review group, said: "We are pleased that Senate has given its support to the proposal, which offers students a week's extra revision time in semester one and a week's extra teaching in semester two."

Between now and the 2011/12 academic year, Colleges and support services will develop plans to support the change.

SEMESTER ONE

A revision week will be introduced at the end of the 11-week teaching block. To accommodate this the start date will always fall two weeks after the last Monday in August, and the semester end will run closer to Christmas but never later than 21 December.

The revision week will be followed by a two-week examination block, and a three-week Christmas holiday period, during which no teaching for undergraduate and postgraduate taught students will take place.

SEMESTER TWO

Teaching will start around the beginning of January. There will be 12 weeks of teaching followed by a revision week. The examination block will be reduced from five weeks to four.

The new model means that the spring break will coincide with Easter two years out of three, which will assist staff and students with school-age children.

Current public holiday arrangements should not be affected, but HR is examining the timing of the September public holiday.

If you have any questions, please contact your line manager or local HR representative.



feature **Forgotten Gems**

Did you know that a piece of Scottish history sits discreetly in a Moray House car park? Or that *St Trinian's* was inspired by a University building? *bulletin* uncovers some hidden highlights of the University estate.

Few institutions run an estate as diverse and vast as the University of Edinburgh. A third of the University's buildings are listed and its core academic space covers a massive 600,000m². Spread over five main sites and housing more than 200 buildings, the University's property portfolio represents a chronology of architectural trends. From St Cecilia's Hall, which dating back to the 1760s is the oldest property, to the award-winning Potterrow development, the University has been responsible for many of the city's iconic buildings throughout the decades.

Edinburgh landmarks such as Old College and the McEwan Hall are well recognised emblems of the University, and the Main Library, designed by Basil Spence in the

1960s, has been an essential haunt for generations of students who have studied among its unique architectural features. Such buildings have come to represent university life, and have many stories to tell, but what about the less familiar places tucked away within Edinburgh's sprawling estate that offer their own secrets and sanctuaries?

bulletin highlights a few of the University's overlooked places that you may want to visit or revisit, or simply learn more about. We have merely scratched the surface with our selection, but if you have a favourite spot in the University that has an interesting story attached or is a special place to escape to during a lunch break, send your suggestion in to bulletin@ed.ac.uk.

Adam House

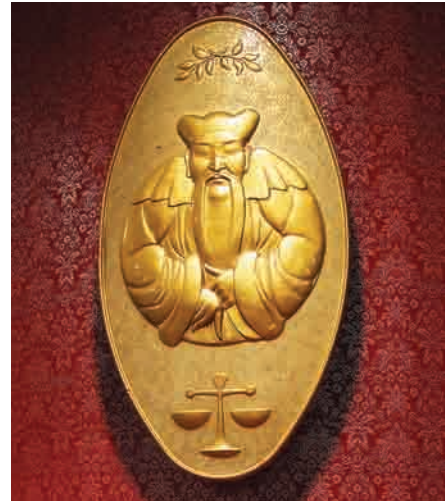
Location: Chambers Street

For students taking exams, Adam House can undoubtedly be a site of some anxiety. However further exploration of this listed building reveals a range of interesting features, including a theatre deep in the basement, and a spectacular chandelier (opposite) that majestically crowns the whole space.

Designed by William Kininmonth (1904–88) and completed in 1954, Adam House was the University's first post-war building. It was constructed on the site of Adam Square, the childhood home of Robert Adam, the architect who designed neighbouring Old College. As

an ode to Adam, the design has a Neo-Classical feel. The architecture, which blended traditional with the modern, was dismissed by many in the profession at the time for being an ill-conceived throwback, yet others championed it as survival of an alternative Classical tradition. A detailed look around the building's interior suggests that the latter opinion may have been the most insightful.

Adam House is mainly used for examinations and exhibitions, but during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the place morphs into a popular arts venue.



Wall decoration, Adam House's theatre

St Leonard's Hall



Location: Pollock Halls

Lovers of Ronald Searle's *St Trinian's* stories may be intrigued to learn that the inspiration behind the series is University building St Leonard's Hall. Used mainly for conferences and functions, the Gothic-looking, 19th-century hall was used as the St Trinnean's girls' school in 1925. Before housing the school, the building also served as a Red Cross Hospital during World War One.

The house was designed in 1870 by architect John Lessels (1808–83) for the publisher Thomas Nelson (1822–92) who owned the Parkside Printing Works which lay on the opposite side of Holyrood Park Road. The building is dripping with period features and has been restored to its former glory. Some of its more intricate attributes include a wooden staircase (above) carved with birds and beasts, as well as stencilled ceiling panels (right) by artist Thomas Bonnar (1810–73).

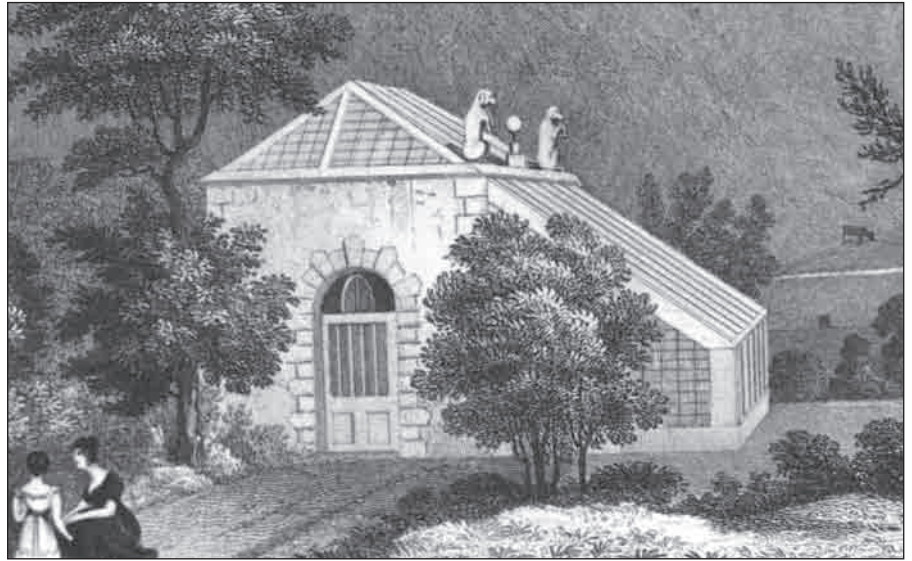


The Moray House Summer House

Location: Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road

A piece of Scottish history sits snugly on Holyrood Road. A small stone building tucked away in the car park on the east side of the Moray House School of Education's Paterson's Land has a less obvious presence than the neighbouring Scottish Parliament but had its own role to play in Scottish politics. Commonly called the Summer House, the building has a link to the Act of Union in 1707. During that historic year, the Lord Chancellor of Scotland, the Earl of Seafield, had a tenancy at Moray House, and together with the Duke of Queensbury, he led the faction for the Union. There are historic references to meetings about the Union in the 'old stone summer house' and the 'pavilion in the gardens belonging to the Earl of Murray's hotel in the Canongate' and although it is unlikely that any official signing took place at this site, key discussions that formed the basis of the articles comprising the Act of Union were probably held there.

There is no record of when the Summer House was built in the garden of Moray House but indirect evidence suggests that it was built in the latter half of the 17th century. In 1793, the house and garden was leased by the Cowan family who commissioned a series of prints in 1829 (above right), that suggest the small building was used as a hothouse for growing oranges and vines. Following that, the Summer House was largely abandoned until



the construction of Paterson's Land, between 1911–14, when the then partially buried Summer House was renovated. The renovation put in place the doors and shutters that can be seen today (right) and the ceiling was plastered and decorated with motifs copied from the Balcony Room in Old Moray House.

A more detailed article about the Summer House's connection with the 1707 Treaty of the Union can be found in the December 2007 edition of the University of Edinburgh Journal.



Natural History Collections, Ashworth Laboratories

Paul Doocis



Location: King's Buildings

The first thing you may notice about the University's Natural History Collections is the extraordinary series of animal sculptures that line the Ashworth Laboratories building, where the exhibits are housed. Phyllis Bone, the first female Royal Scottish Academician, made the sculptures in the late 1920s when the new zoology department at King's Buildings was opened. The sculptures, illustrating biogeographic zones of the world, including a crab, a lion and a chimp (left), are rendered with great detail and acuity, and reflect the commitment and intelligence behind the whole Collections project.

Curated by Mark Blaxter and Graham Stone, the Natural History Collections is an official museum and a branch of University Collections. Although most of the current exhibits are from the 1920s, the University has been amassing

zoological specimens since 1692, when the first exhibits were displayed in Old College. The collections give students a real depth and diversity of study, with exhibits ranging from a beautifully detailed giant model of a tick to an elephant skull – complete with semi-healed bullet wound – to a set of pickled *siphunculids* (marine worms).

The highlight of the collections is the Aubrey Manning Gallery, named in honour of the Professor of Natural History from 1973 to 1997. Among the display cases sits a Tuatara lizard, sometimes described as a 'living fossil', and a duck-billed platypus, which is one of the first examples of a stuffed platypus in the UK.

The Natural History Collections is open to visitors by arrangement with the curators. It will be open to the public for Doors Open Day, Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September.

New College hideaways

Location: The Mound

The twin towers of New College have an authoritative presence, overlooking Princes Street on the Mound. Entering onto the quad it's difficult not to feel humbled by its striking architecture. But within and around its impressive exterior are many hidden places that offer quiet solace or historical interest. Tucked away underneath the library is a tiny chapel, known as the Sanctuary (below). The chapel is used for communion services and as a quiet place for students to read and reflect. It's an atmospheric space, with stained glass windows, and a sloping floor that betrays the building's steep location on the Mound. An equally tranquil spot is the garden, located to the back of New College's main administration offices. The leafy garden has just been refurbished thanks to a legacy from Divinity alumnus Alan Robinson.

The Martin Hall is an impressive space that has been recently restored to retain its original charms. The Hall was named after Alexander Martin, Principal of the College and an influential figure in the Union of the United Free Church with the Church of Scotland in 1929. The signing of this union took place in the hall. Today, with its stained glass window, stunning views of Edinburgh, and period features, it provides a special environment for religious services.



Reid Concert Hall and Museum

Location: Bristo Square

Celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, the Reid Concert Hall and Museum is a major asset to the University. The Museum, which is open to visitors at set times, houses a broad collection of around 1,000 instruments spanning four centuries, including a 16th-century trombone and a saxophone collection from the instrument's inventor Adolphe Sax.

It was General Reid who provided the inspiration and funding for a music department at the University of Edinburgh. In 1838 a Chair of Music was established, and in 1845 John Donaldson was appointed to the post. Using money from General Reid's fund, Donaldson instigated the construction of a purpose-built classroom for teaching music with a strong emphasis on acoustics and practical demonstrations, which is of course the concert hall we're familiar with today. Music students are taught acoustics in the hall, honouring Donaldson's original intentions.

Donaldson also established the adjoining museum collection. It is believed to be the earliest surviving purpose-built musical museum in the world. Donaldson's intentions for assembling a collection were not just to keep a historical record but to also use the



instruments for study and teaching. The collection is still used for that purpose and is also accessed by other universities and colleges, music specialists, musicians, instrument makers and curious members of the general public.

You can visit the museum on Saturdays between 10am–1pm or Wednesdays between 3pm–5pm, with extra opening times during the Festival period.

With thanks to all the staff who helped create this feature including Arnold Myers, Mark Blaxter, Graham Stone, Ming Cao, Grant Buttars, Hugh Perfect and Chris Small.



feature **Ray of light**

The EUSA Teaching Awards were a celebration of teaching excellence at the University of Edinburgh and an opportunity for teaching staff to see their hard work rewarded.
bulletin reports.

In a reversal of roles, students were given the opportunity to rate the University's academic teaching staff for the inaugural EUSA Teaching Awards, set up by the Students' Association.

The initiative, run solely by EUSA, offers a platform to honour the University's top teaching staff by giving students the opportunity to nominate a lecturer or tutor who has enhanced their learning experience at Edinburgh.

Evan Beswick, EUSA's Vice-President for Academic Affairs, says: "There is some excellent teaching going on at Edinburgh and this deserves to be recognised. We are very pleased with the positive reaction that we have had from the University and hope that this will feed through into more formal recognition for

teaching quality in things like promotion of academic staff."

The University is taking steps to build upon the promotion opportunities and formal recognition available for teaching staff. It already offers Personal Chairs in Student Learning to academics solely for their teaching achievements, and the Chancellor's Award for Teaching has also been given since 2004.

Dai Hounsell, Vice-Principal for Academic Enhancement, acknowledges that there aren't enough opportunities to highlight formally some of the excellent student-centred work that takes place at the University. He says: "There are many examples of excellent teachers whose qualities have been recognised with a Senior Lectureship or a Personal Chair, but it has probably been

EUSA TEACHING AWARD WINNERS

Best Department

Winner: Classics
 Runner Up: Chemistry

Best Course

Winner: Criminal Law (Ordinary)
 Runner Up: American History 2

Best Director of Study

Winner: Tony Gilbert, Mathematics
 Runner Up: Martin Reekie, Engineering

Teaching Employable Skills

Winner: Kenny Pryde, Education
 Runner up: Michael Lurie, Classics

Innovative Teaching

Winner: Richard Milne, Biological Sciences
 Runner up: Simon Bates, Physics and Astronomy

Best Feedback

Winner: John Simpson, Respiratory Medicine
 Runner up: John Kitchen, Music

Commitment to All-Round Teaching

Winner: Tonks Fawcett, Nursing Studies
 Runner up: Alastair Richmond, Philosophy

Outstanding Communicator

Winner: Ian Campbell, English Literature
 Runner up: Gordon Findlater, Anatomy

Best Dissertation Supervisor

Winner: Yew Ming Chia, Accounting
 Runner up: Lloyd Llewelyn Jones, Classics

Overall High Performer

Winner: Elizabeth Bomberg, Politics and International Relations
 Runner up: Philip Wadler, Informatics



A warm welcome: new Rector Iain MacWhirter introduces the event



Under the spotlight: staff and students celebrate the awards

"I put my life and soul into my lectures and it means the world to me that the students appreciate them!"

Richard Milne,
 Biological Sciences
 Winner of *Innovative Teaching*

"I have always valued my teaching very highly in the hopes of contributing in some small way to producing the very best in our next generation graduates. It is good to see teaching recognised."

Tonks Fawcett, Nursing Studies
 Winner of *Commitment to All-Round Teaching*

"The award is a wonderfully positive and constructive way for students to acknowledge and reward the teaching they most value here at Edinburgh."

Elizabeth Bomberg,
 Politics and International Relations
 Winner of *Overall High Performer*

"It's important to see how well the University is doing in terms of supporting our students in such a variety of ways, but formal recognition is not as important as seeing the students develop into capable professionals."

Kenny Pryde, Education,
 Winner of *Teaching Employable Skills*

harder to get promoted for good teaching than good research. I do think, however, that the balance will shift over the next few years, not just within the University of Edinburgh but the higher education sector as a whole."

Tony Gilbert, who won the award for Best Director of Studies, feels that the EUSA awards were a long-needed opportunity to showcase teaching. He says: "I feel a great sense of gratitude to EUSA for instituting this award scheme. It casts a small ray of light on a group of people, who have elected to channel their energy and skills into student matters. Able teachers should surely be valued for their skills at passing knowledge to succeeding generations."

The response to the awards has been extremely positive. A total of 2,704 nominations were

received for 621 staff, 191 courses and 60 departments, demonstrating that quality teaching is an issue that matters to the student population. Plans are already in place to develop the awards scheme into an annual event, and the University is also looking to collaborate with EUSA on a conference that will showcase examples of excellent teaching around the University.

Dai Hounsell comments: "The EUSA Teaching Awards are an absolutely marvellous initiative, and we should all raise a loud cheer. What is great about EUSA's scheme is it demonstrates that excellent teaching takes different forms, and focuses attention on a number of individuals who have been doing great work for years that has largely gone unnoticed by colleagues – unsung heroes if you like."

Other awards

The Chancellor's Award winners, including the recipient of the Teaching Award, will be announced on 10 August.

Deadlines for nominations for the Principal's Medal and the Tam Dalyell Prize are both 4 September. Further details at: www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/awards-170309.

Freedom or folly? A decade on...



The Scottish Parliament: a laboratory for constitutional reform or an overly idealistic attempt at 'new politics'? Charlie Jeffery (Co-Director of the Institute of Governance) and Navraj Ghaleigh (Lecturer in Public Law) offer insights into the successes and failures of the Parliament's 10th anniversary.



Charlie Jeffery

"The Scottish Parliament, which adjourned on 25 March 1707, is hereby re-convened."

They were significant not just to those, like Ewing, who would prefer to see an independent Scotland, but also to the wider section of Scottish opinion that was comfortable with Scottish membership of the UK, but had become disillusioned with the way Scotland was governed within the UK. The experience of almost two decades of UK government, led by a Conservative Party with a Westminster majority but able to win at best less than one-third of the Westminster seats in Scotland, had called the legitimacy of the UK system of government in question in Scotland. Devolution – the establishment of a Scottish Parliament accountable to a Scottish electorate – was the response. The Parliament was to democratise the government of Scotland, to make wide areas of decision-making much more directly accountable to the people who are affected by those decisions.

The expectations raised by the promise of

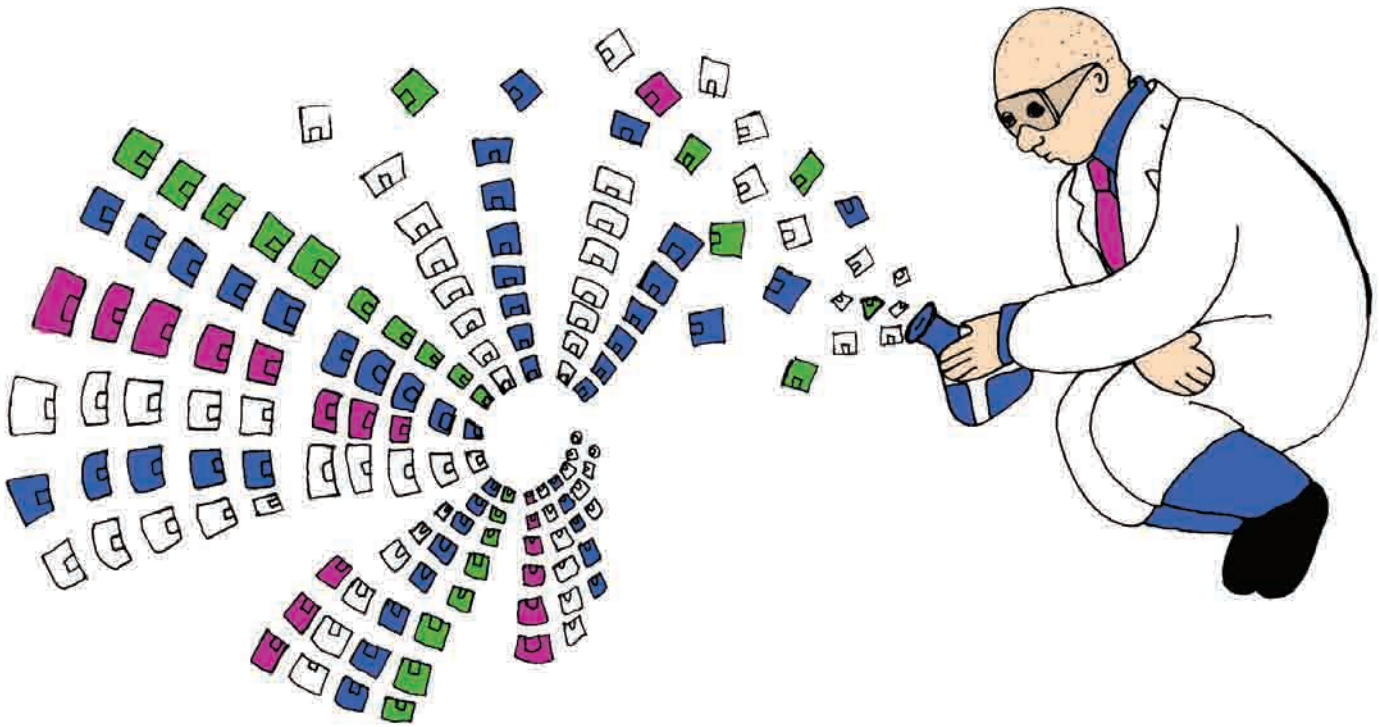
Rarely can such high expectations have been invested in a political institution as the Scottish Parliament. The words Winnie Ewing chose to open its inaugural session on 12 May 1999 were immensely significant:

democratic accountability were only one part of the story. The other had to do with the imagery attached by devolution campaigners to the future Parliament as an institution. The Parliament was to be the arena of a 'new politics'. This new politics was defined both positively and negatively. Negatively, it was about having a Parliament that was not like Westminster. Westminster was too antiquated in practice, too remote and too much marked by a stylised adversarial style of opposition for its own sake. The new Scottish Parliament needed an institutional design and a way of working that would stand far removed from this negative example.

Much effort was put in the first half of the 1990s in working out more positively how the future Scottish Parliament would deliver this new politics. Proportional representation was one part of the mix that would challenge adversary politics with a new brand of consensus. A high-profile commitment to equality of opportunity was another, reflecting the influence that the Scottish Women's Coordination Group built up. There was also a commitment to see the Parliament work openly with 'civil society' and to open up the new Scottish democracy to participation by individuals other than the 'usual suspects' in powerful interest groups.

All this was to be hard-wired into the design of the Parliament. The Scottish Constitutional

Continued on column 1, page 14



Navraj Ghaleigh

A week is a long time in politics, a decade is a mere shutter-snap for constitutional affairs. If ever true, that view has little traction when considering the transformations wrought by Scottish devolution.

Consider the foundational doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty, that Westminster can make or unmake any law. It is even less plausible to imagine a future Westminster legislating to abolish the Scottish Parliament (which it is, in a thin sense, legally capable of doing) than it is legislating to withdraw from the EU (which it is, in a thin sense, legally capable of doing).

This piece, however, does not focus on this grand issue but on smaller developments generated during the first 10 years of devolution. In observing Holyrood's system of expenses and parliamentary standards and the uses made of ICTs (information and communication technologies) we witness fledgling institutions both progressing beyond their legal parent and failing to sustain their momentum.

The 10th birthday of the Scottish Parliament arrives at the moment when the Westminster Parliament is suffering a range of legitimacy challenges unknown for generations, if ever.

The expenses debacle has given the Holyrood system and its incumbents the opportunity to adopt a position that might kindly be called contentment. The early years of Holyrood were of course characterised by a series of home-grown challenges that crystallised around the construction of the building itself, as well as an allowances 'scandal' that resulted in the resignation of the second First Minister.

The legal regime governing the Scottish dimension of parliamentary affairs is, unlike that of Westminster, firmly on a statutory footing. Whereas the Houses of Parliament have relied on 'customary privileges' to regulate their affairs, the *Scotland Act 1998* requires the Scottish Parliament to legislate in this area, which was finally done by way of the *Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006*, and also establish its own Standing Orders and the Standards and Public Appointments Committee (as it has been known since 2005). More substantively, receipts of expenses are published on Members' parliamentary web pages timeously and crucially, MSPs are no longer entitled to use allowances for the purposes of paying mortgages for second homes, but must rent if necessary. Such arrangements are rightly supported by an expenses scheme but remove the appearance, if not the actuality, of elected members using public funds to speculate in the property market for private gain.

This detailed regime has created a system that is avowedly distinct from Westminster's. The system of complaints is well used and while more than three quarters are determined by the independent Standards Commissioner to be inadmissible, fewer than half a dozen per annum go to full investigation. Of those that are investigated, none could be placed in the same category as the notorious examples from Westminster. The recent publication of the *UK Parliamentary Standards Bill*, which closely maps the Scottish scheme, may rightly be seen as a sign of Holyrood's success.

Holyrood has also been pioneering in its use of ICT to enable citizens to hold politicians to account. The Parliament has a website (which actually existed prior to the institution) that offers text and video content covering all aspects of its process, committees and floor activities. Most notably, it has a much-praised (and copied) system of online petitions which, unlike the Downing Street version, gives due consideration to all petitions submitted by a Public Petitions Committee. The *Governance of Britain White Paper* of May 2008 suggests that this crucial institutional back-up should now be replicated in Westminster. Praise indeed.

However, the petitions system, like the Scottish Parliament's website, is a creature of the early 2000s. The latter has long appeared creaky, and populated by static information, centrally

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Charlie Jeffery – continued from page 12

Convention's final report in 1995 'expected' that the Parliament would "provide, through its practices and procedures, a form of government in whose accountability, accessibility, openness and responsiveness the people of Scotland will have confidence and pride." Those procedures were then worked out in detail by a Consultative Steering Group (CSG), which – according to its Chair, and the later Scottish First Minister Henry McLeish – aimed to put in place "a new sort of democracy in Scotland".

The Parliament does not 'look' like the diverse society that contemporary Scotland has become

These were high ambitions. The report card after 10 years is mixed. The first years of the Parliament were mired in controversy, in particular in relation to the spiralling costs of the Parliament building, but also about MSP expenses and allowances (though the issues that came to light then were small scale compared to the current expenses crisis at Westminster, and produced at an early stage a more transparent system now widely seen as a model for Westminster).

One consequence of these early controversies was a sharp dip in public assessments of the impact of the Parliament, exacerbated perhaps because the imagery of a new politics raised such a level of expectation that the performance of the Parliament in practice was always going to disappoint. Much of what Convention and the CSG expected of the Parliament was overly idealistic. In particular it underestimated the importance, and the logic, of party competition. Political parties are central to the operation of the Scottish Parliament. Though not as 'whipped' as at Westminster, they generally maintain high degrees of party discipline and, as at Westminster, oppose each other often for its own sake.

The Convention and the CSG underestimated too how difficult it might be to embed a long-term commitment to equality of opportunity, in particular within the Scottish parties. Initial commitments by the parties to select more female candidates now seem to be given less priority; in other ways too the Parliament does not 'look' like the diverse society that contemporary Scotland has become.

The founders of Scottish devolution also underestimated the capacity of the 'usual suspects', especially in the public sector and legal professions, seamlessly to establish insider status in the new Scottish democracy. While new voices have been heard – through a more open committee structure, including a very busy public petitions committee – the old voices still speak the loudest.

None of this is meant to suggest that the Parliament has somehow failed in what it was intended to achieve, but rather that the benchmark of a new politics was always a flawed one. But there is a different benchmark, as expressed by Winnie Ewing a decade ago. That benchmark was about restoring legitimacy and accountability to the government of Scotland. There is now a Scottish democratic process (however 'new' or 'old' its features might be), based on Scottish elections, and carried out through a Parliament able to give due attention to, and assure the legitimacy of, legislation and government action in Scotland. Scottish voters make increasingly sophisticated judgements about that government action, not least the new and substantial Scottish statute book that has built up since 1999. And it is now beyond doubt that Scots firmly approve of having a Parliament. Indeed, if anything, they would like to see it do more. In this sense – the renewal of Scottish democracy – the high expectations invested in the Parliament have certainly been met.

Navraj Ghaleigh – continued from page 13

controlled and is generally dated. The former, even at its highest, is no more than a modest, if innovative, addition to a new institution. The early successes have not been built on.

An opportunity of reinvigoration arose with the Scottish Government's 'National Conversation', an online process to engage the Scottish public in a public debate about Scottish independence in the lead-up to a referendum in 2010. Launched in late 2007, the website has been notable for its attempt to mix plain, informational features with interactive ones (video, forums, ministerial blogs and so on). The usage data of the site is not however so impressive, nor easy to obtain. As of May 2009 the site had received 489,857 hits. The *White Paper* had been downloaded 10,996 times and read 37,406 times, and 4,447 comments were posted on the blog. By way of comparison the University's Law School, which has a community of a mere 1,000 students and staff receives more than one million visitors annually. Given a Scottish population of five million and a large engaged diaspora, these are disappointing figures in comparison, which led no doubt to the recent relaunch of the Government's site. However, it is not obvious that the new site has fully embraced the opportunities offered by 'Web 2.0' technologies (drawing on collective intelligence by allowing users to manipulate and generate content, encouraging experimentation or enriching the user experience in other ways) and in the absence of so doing, usage may continue to disappoint. Experiences in recent US and Iranian elections point to the demand for popular online engagement in politics, but having scored major international successes very early on, Scottish e-democracy has gradually become rather complacent.

The expenses debacle has given the Holyrood system and its incumbents the opportunity to adopt a position that might kindly be called contentment.

In 1932, Supreme Court Justice Louis D Brandeis coined the metaphor of sub-state units – the American states in his dictum – as "laboratories of democracy" in which novel experiments could be carried out without risk to the wider nation, and to its benefit if successful. The basic idea has informed thinking on devolved power ever since. And although Scotland would rightly bristle at being termed a laboratory for social experimentation, the above suggests ways in which the idea may be useful.

A persistent trope of devolution studies is that Westminster 'ignores' Holyrood (to which might be added, everyone 'ignores' the Welsh Assembly). The case study of Parliamentary Standards would seem to support this conclusion, with Westminster only turning its attention northwards when the problem reached crisis point. With e-democracy, however, the 'lab study' was noted and acted upon to the extent that we now see the UK Government drawing on and outstripping Scotland in its use of ICTs – the *Cabinet Office's Power of Information Review* leading those efforts. After a decade of the new institutions of devolution, these snapshots should be seen as examples of dynamic constitutional borrowings, which will become increasingly common.

Related links

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/
www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/a-national-conversation

Illustrations by Nicola O'Byrne. www.nickyliketodraw.blogspot.com

Fire in the belly



Artist **Ilana Halperin** took dedication to her art to new levels when she got up close and personal with active volcanoes in Hawaii. She recorded some amazing spectacles and her findings will be on display for the Talbot Rice Gallery's forthcoming *An Entangled Bank* exhibition, part of the Year of Darwin celebration.

bulletin caught up with the artist to find out more.

How did you get involved with the *An Entangled Bank* exhibition?

Pat Fisher contacted me to discuss the possibility of working together on a Darwin-related project for the Gallery. My work explores how we relate to and make sense of geological phenomena, which seemed like a natural crossover in terms of exploring Darwinian themes.

Tell us a little bit about your project?

I had begun work on a project called *Physical Geology*, which looks at the notion of physical geological time – a sort of geological time diptych exploring fast-moving lava flows versus slower geological processes, such as cave formation.

Talbot Rice commissioned me to explore the 'fast time' part of the project, involving lava flows.

The project has several stages; research, fabrication, observation and eventually lava forging – the creation of a new series of lava medallions (magma pressed between forged steel plates to form an imprint).

To understand the nature and character of lava flows more clearly I undertook fieldwork in Hawaii. My exhibition will include photographs, drawings, lava-stamping implements, video, sound and text, documenting my findings.

Hawaii sounds like an exciting destination for fieldwork. What did you learn there?

I went to Big Island, Hawaii, where the volcanoes are some of the most active in the world. They are Shield Volcanoes (large volcanoes with shallow-sloping sides) with fairly 'predictable' behaviour, so they are ideal for learning about active lava flows from first-hand observation.

We joined Professor Ken Hon from the University of Hawaii for an excursion out onto the active lava flows. We were literally walking on new ground – 12 months old, two weeks old, two days old. Incredible.

It sounds quite dangerous! What challenges did you face in gathering your research?

Conditions were very changeable so flexibility

was a crucial part of the process. Roads to certain parts of the volcano were closed due to poor air quality, and the lava viewing platform was off limits on a regular basis due to wind direction. Often, heavy night swells made water too choppy to observe the lava from a boat. So, you had to be prepared to spring into action, full kit packed and ready to go as soon as conditions allowed, or to reschedule if any dangers were present.

And the high points?

Even 10 minutes in front of the lava at close range was utterly remarkable, so it was worth getting up at 4am on the off chance you could make the approach. Following up on leads as they presented themselves also offered totally unexpected opportunities. For example, we were able to go caving into a pristine lava tube. Only 12 people are allowed in per week, to keep it intact.

The trip culminated in one particularly magnificent experience. After hiking over pitch-black lava fields scattered with 'Pele's Hair' (Volcanic glass threads) and other extremely beautiful phenomena, we sat on warm lava flows to film and watch new land mass forming just underneath us as the lava flowed into the ocean. Enshrouded in plumes of smoke, the lava would reveal itself for moments. At points the ground was so hot you had to get up and move to a slightly cooler position.

Tell us about your collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's volcanologists?

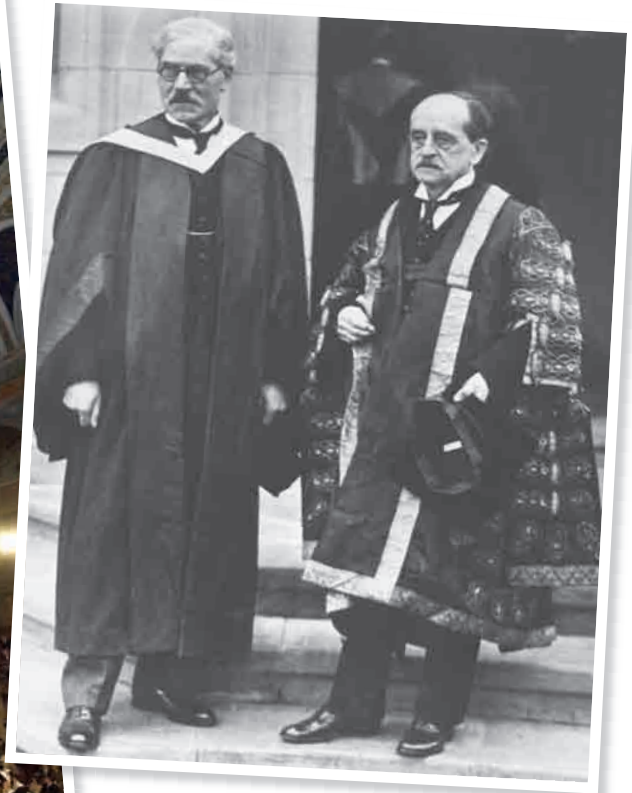
Thor Thordarson (Reader in Volcanology, School of GeoSciences) was consultant volcanologist on the project. He is an amazing man and had a great deal to say on both the topic of lava forging and the nature of art and geology. He also introduced me to Professor Ken Hon from the University of Hawaii.

You can view Ilana's work at An Entangled Bank when the exhibition opens at the Talbot Rice Gallery's white gallery on 24 October. The exhibition displays interpretations of Darwinian themes by contemporary artists. The Georgian Gallery will showcase a selection of historical objects relating to Darwin in the actual area where he studied at the University. The exhibition runs until 12 December.

Even 10 minutes in front of the lava at close range was utterly remarkable.



Scroll of honour



Graduation day is a momentous occasion for every student. Donning academic robes and receiving that all-important parchment scroll in the historic McEwan Hall marks the culmination of years of hard work, and it is a day to celebrate with friends and family.

Every year, the University confers about 5,000 degrees and 250 diplomas and certificates. The ceremonies – held in summer and winter – follow time-honoured traditions, some of which can be traced back to the founding of the University in 1583. From the carrying of the University mace in the academic procession, to the use of the graduation 'bonnet', with which the Principal lightly doffs the heads of students to confer their degrees, it is a solemn but exciting occasion.

The conferment of honorary degrees on distinguished public figures during the ceremonies also makes graduation day all the more special for students, who receive their degrees in illustrious company.



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: McEwan Hall's grand interior lends a sense of occasion; J M Barrie, *Peter Pan* author (right), on graduation day; a graduate savours the moment. This page, clockwise from top left: writer and broadcaster Michael Palin and Edinburgh International Book Festival Director Catherine Lockerbie celebrate with fellow honorary graduands; the choir sets the mood; McEwan Hall's doorway sculpture; the Most Reverend Archbishop Desmond Tutu receives his honorary degree; proud graduates from the 1980s.

Did you know...?



- The University mace was given to the University in 1789 after the original one was said to be stolen by the 'notorious' Deacon Brodie, a businessman who maintained a secret life as a burglar.
- According to University legend, the graduation cap (the Geneva Bonnet) was made using material from the breeches of John Knox.
- The sculpture over the door of McEwan Hall depicts a graduation ceremony and the Latin inscription records the generosity of benefactor Sir William McEwan.
- Our first female graduates received their MA degrees in 1893.



people news

New Director of Careers Service appointed

Shelagh Green, Acting Director of the Careers Service, has been appointed as Director, in succession to Lynda Ali. Shelagh takes up her appointment immediately.



Shelagh has worked within the University's Careers Service since 1998, most recently as Deputy Director.

She says: "I'm very much looking forward to taking the Service forward. It is an exciting time to take the reins; the economic climate is challenging for our students, graduates and the employers we work with. However the appetite to ensure we offer an excellent student experience and support the employability of our students is in evidence

when I meet colleagues across the institution. "As a support service I believe it's vital that we are providing the right support for our users – whether they be students, recent graduates, colleagues within the institution or employers. A key priority for me is to ensure, that my team and I form really effective relationships and work alongside our stakeholders to ensure the University continues to have a Careers Service it can be rightly proud of."

Bruce Nelson, Academic Registrar, adds: "I'm delighted that Shelagh has been appointed as Director, and look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role, in the way that we've worked together while she has been Acting Director. I'm pleased that Shelagh's confirmation as Director will give us the stability to develop the Service for the future".



Students win Employee of the Year awards

Three students from the University of Edinburgh have been named as Regional Winners (Scotland and Northern Ireland) of the Student Employee of the Year Awards.

The awards recognise and promote the outstanding contributions and achievements of students who effectively combine part-time work with their study commitments.

Geoff Thubron (fourth-year Computer Science) and Michal Bartosik (fourth-year Artificial Intelligence) were nominated by Chris McPhee of Crocodile Clips, an Edinburgh educational software development company.

Catherine Stevens (third-year PhD English Literature) was nominated by the University's Careers Service where she works for the SAGE team – the same team that helped McPhee recruit Geoff and Michal.

For more information about how you can use SAGE to recruit students, contact the SAGE team at sage@ed.ac.uk.

Allan White retires after 43 years

Copy Centres' Supervisor Allan White will retire from the University after 43 years service on 31 July.

Allan started at the University on 22 August 1966 as a junior assistant operating Roneo stencil duplicators. He has witnessed many changes and taken on many responsibilities since then, from working a Roneo Vickers Duplicator in the early days to using high volume digital copiers in the 21st century, as well as managing the copy centres and becoming expert with complex spreadsheets.

Print and Procurement Manager Stuart Maclean says: "Allan's keenness to get the job done was never better illustrated than when he used to go round the 300 or so copiers in the University to take meter readings in the holidays. His first-class service to Printing Services and his customers over the years will forever be appreciated. He will be missed by all his colleagues and customers."



Allan plans to spend his retirement relaxing and visiting all the castles, museums and stately homes he's wanted to see, but never previously had the time for. He also hopes to take time out in the West Highland area, but he will miss his University colleagues, while enjoying his new leisure time.

He says: "I will miss the day-to-day contact with people within and outside the University, solving all their little problems to keep the wheels of education turning."

Sports Union President rides tandem to Africa

Outgoing Sports Union President Joe Gray is to cycle from London to Africa on a tandem bike to raise money for the charity WaterAid.

Travelling through France, the Pyrenees, Spain and then Morocco, Joe and his cycling partner, fellow Edinburgh alumnus Andrew Voysey will tackle a demanding schedule of 80 miles a day, six days a week to complete the 2,000-mile journey within a target time of four weeks.

Joe says: "Tandem to Africa is all about combining my love for sport with the urgency to help bring access to safe water and sanitation to communities living without it. WaterAid projects cost around £15 per head, so, with the help of our generous donors, I know that we will all be making a huge difference to people's lives."

Joe and Andrew are looking to raise £10,000 for WaterAid, which works to provide safe water and sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

For more information about their trip and how you can make a donation, visit their website at: www.webjam.com/tandem_to_africa.



In tandem: Joe Gray (left) and Andrew Voysey

Architecture project scores at Chelsea Flower Show



Architecture staff and students have won a Chelsea Flower Show award for their contribution to a garden created in collaboration with garden designer Paul Hensey.

Their submission to the Show, The Fenchurch Garden (above), used concrete structures, which were made at the University of Edinburgh applying techniques developed as part of a live architecture project.

The innovative techniques create fabric-formed concrete panels that have a flexible

framework, enabling more complex shapes to be formed. The methods are also sustainable as less material is used than in the conventional manufacture of concrete.

The unusual submission to the Show won the Most Creative Award in the urban garden category.

For more information about the concrete casting techniques used by the architecture team, visit the following website: www.fabricformedconcrete.ed.ac.uk.

Role play



Name: Mary Bownes

Role: Vice-Principal, Research Training & Community Relations and Professor of Developmental Biology

Department: School of Biology

What is your role at the University?

I advise the Principal and the central management team of strategic direction in the areas of postgraduate students, widening participation, recruitment at all levels of study, scholarships and bursaries, sustainability and community relations.

What have you and your team achieved?

We are increasing our number of research students along with the quality of their experience. I have been working to negotiate joint international PhDs which will attract the best of research students to study between two top research teams in two countries.

In terms of widening participation and admissions, our aim is to get the best students with the best potential to succeed at Edinburgh. To inspire young people who might not normally think about going to university we have quite a number of outreach programmes, such as Pathways to the Professions.

We have recently published a community strategy – undertaking the review of what we do showed just how much our staff and students do in the wider community. We are also looking to develop a Sustainability and Social Responsibility (SSR) strategy.

What are the best elements of your job?

The huge diversity of the areas I cover and hearing about the work of the people across all disciplines in the University. I like it when I see real change and improvement as a result of my work.

And the worst...?

People who are reluctant to look at new ways of doing things and don't like to cross imaginary boundaries.

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

Dedicated to the core



From making the front page of the *Independent* to inspiring future generations of scientists, Professor Martin Siegert has made an impact at the University since his appointment as Head of the School of GeoSciences in 2006.

Being dedicated, methodical and conscientious are the personal qualities a leading international scientist most needs, according to Professor Martin Siegert, Head of the School of GeoSciences. Siegert, who has made his mark on the world stage with his pioneering subglacial lake explorations in Antarctica, clearly possesses those attributes in abundance.

His ambitious Lake Ellsworth project, which was this year awarded significant Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funding, has been the culmination of 15 years of commitment, planning and hard work.

Subglacial lakes, which are large bodies of water found beneath the ice sheet, were discovered 30 years ago. The lakes have the potential to enhance knowledge about Antarctica, as well as offer clues to broader environmental issues such as climate change. Scientists are also eager to explore what life forms exist in the lakes.

Siegert was inspired to start this project at a conference as a young academic: "I noticed

the same people saying the same things as they had at similar events two or three years earlier. At that point I suddenly realised that subglacial lake exploration isn't going to happen by these people. Someone else will do it. That's why I wanted to put together a UK team."

Fifteen years on, Siegert has transformed that thought into a reality. His multidisciplinary team, which comprises 10 UK universities and the British Antarctica Survey, will drill down 3km of ice and deploy a robot to measure the water and take samples for both climate change records and indications of life.

Not only will the team's findings potentially answer crucial scientific questions, but it could set a technological precedent that may be adapted by the space science community for future missions to Jupiter's moon Europa.

"When we go into the lake it will be the first time anyone's gone into this environment. We are setting a historical benchmark with what we're doing and others will take notice of it in the future," Siegert explains.

We are setting a historical benchmark with what we're doing and others will take notice of it in the future.

PROFESSOR MARTIN SIEGERT: CV

1986–89: Studied Geological Geophysics, University of Reading

1990–93: Undertook a PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

1994–1998: Lecturer at the Centre for Glaciology, University of Wales, Aberystwyh

1999–2006: Worked at the University of Bristol's Glaciology Centre, first as lecturer then as its Director and Professor of Physical Geography

2002: Awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize for outstanding young scholars

2006: Appointed Head of the School of GeoSciences at Edinburgh

2007: Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh



continued from page 20.

The project has already hit the headlines, making the front page of the *Independent*, but he values equally the impact his research could have on aspiring scientists. "One thing we're committed to doing is outreaching this project to schoolchildren to get them excited in science and demonstrating that it's not just about lab work but about doing things that are new, going to places that we haven't been before, and being inquisitive."

Siegert, a previous recipient of the Philip Leverhulme Prize for outstanding young scholars, would be an apt role model for any potential researcher. As the only member of his family to attend university, he says his committed and focused work ethic stems from his family's attitude that "you get what you earn". He is uncomfortable using the word ambition, but possesses a quiet drive and determination to get things done with patience and focus.

It's such an attitude that will help him realise his goals as Head of the School of GeoSciences. His commitment to the School's, and indeed the University's role in tackling climate change is evident, as is his passion for the issue.

"Climate change is real. It's not going away. It is going to cause people to alter the way that we live and it will happen. Universities need to respond to this urgently," he states.

"They need to make sure they're in a position to advise and support and provide the next level of people in the workforce. That's our responsibility. That's what we're set up to do. So that's what we have to do."

The scientist believes collaboration across multiple academic disciplines is key. He actively encourages work across Schools and Colleges, including projects with academic colleagues in engineering and business.

He explains: "Most Schools in the University will have people who are interested in climate change but there's no way of gathering and linking them and that's what we're trying to do, so that the University can take the maximum potential out of its existing strengths on climate change."

The School has teamed up with Heriot-Watt University to launch the Climate Change Centre, which is perhaps the first step in Siegert's broader vision to see the city of Edinburgh become a centre for carbon research.

He says: "It's all about carbon and I want the city of Edinburgh to be the centre of gravity for carbon research and teaching for the UK. We've got many strengths at this University and I think we can do it."

obituary

Professor Sir Neil MacCormick (1941–2009)

Neil MacCormick was born in Glasgow on 27 May 1941 and died in Edinburgh on 5 April 2009. He studied at Glasgow University and then Balliol College, Oxford. He taught at Dundee University (then part of St Andrews University) and Balliol College before coming to Edinburgh where he was Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations from 1972 to 2007.

Neil was a prodigious figure both in the life of the University and the wider community. A true follower of the Scottish tradition of the Democratic Intellect, he was pre-eminent in intellectual and public engagement in the academy and beyond. He died before his time but he had already achieved what most people would aspire to in two lifetimes.

In public life and service he was, on various occasions, a member of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Research Council of the European University Institute and the European Science Foundation, as well as various government departmental committees inquiring into matters of public concern.

He served from 1999 to 2004 as Member of the European Parliament on behalf of the Scottish National Party (of which party he has been a Vice-President). Voted Scottish Euro MP of the Year for three consecutive years (at the Scottish Politician of the Year awards), he was, until his passing, Special Adviser to the First Minister, Alex Salmond, on European and External Affairs.

He was twice Dean of the Faculty of Law. He was Provost of the Faculty Group of Law and Social Science and had been a Vice-Principal for International Affairs. He had been a Senate Assessor on the University Court, Convener of the University Press Committee, and Chair of the Student Accommodation Committee, the Staff Club Management Committee and University Settlement.

Neil was a popular and effective lecturer to large classes, and a believer in the tradition of professorial engagement with first-year students. He was also most successful as a teacher of smaller groups and an effective



supervisor of many postgraduates now holding senior positions the world over.

He was Leverhulme Research Professor from 1997 to 1999 and from 2004 until his retirement. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the British Academy, was an honorary Queen's Counsel and was knighted in 2001 in recognition of services to scholarship in law. In 2004 he was a recipient of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Royal Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement.

On meeting Professor Sir Neil MacCormick most people were struck, not by his stature as a great intellectual and public figure, but by the fact that he was a witty, charming, kind and helpful man. He wore his distinction lightly and engaged with everyone on an equal footing; he had equal concern and respect for everyone. He made those he engaged with think that they had something important to give, and he did this because he truly believed that they did, and was concerned to find it.

Neil was the most considerate and generous of men both in his public and private life. He died on Palm Sunday at home with his wife Flora by his side. She and his family will miss him terribly, as will we all.

At his memorial service, Anne Lorne Gillies sang Robert Burns's great anthem "A Man's a Man for a' That". It was a fitting and moving tribute and brought tears to many eyes.

Zenon Bankowski
Professor of Legal Theory
Centre for Law and Society

Spot the difference

Would you like to win a pair of tickets for the forthcoming Fringe production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the McEwan Hall? Just complete our spot the difference puzzle. Compare the two pictures of the Visitor's Centre. The image on the right differs to the one on the left. You are looking for five differences. Circle the differences and send in your answer by 31 July. A prize draw will take place on Wednesday 5 August and the winner will be notified by email.

Send your answers and email address to: **Competitions, Bulletin, Communications & Marketing, 48 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 4TJ**



Word search

Try our word search challenge and you could win another pair of tickets for a Fringe show on campus. Hidden in the grid are 25 words or phrases (not including apostrophes) relating to University buildings or places. See right for clues. Mark the words on the grid and return it to us, including your email address, at the address above. A prize draw will be held on 5 August.



CLUES

1. Physician, physicist, chemist and mentor to James Watt
2. Geology, Geophysics and Environmental GeoSciences staff work here
3. The scientist famous for his work on electromagnetism
4. This state-of-the-art building features solar panels and a sunlight-tracking device
5. 2009 marks 200 years since this famous scholar's birth
6. This new Forum features on the cover of the 2007/2008 *Annual Review*
7. Relax in the recently opened coffee shop, on the ground floor
8. Art gallery in Old College
9. Buy your University merchandise at this Potterrow Centre
10. Its imposing twin towers overlook Princes Street
11. Play squash, go climbing or lift weights here (acronym)
12. Britain's oldest student-run theatre
13. Architecture students learn here
14. Named after the author of *A Treatise of Human Nature* (acronym)
15. 11 Crichton Street, EH8 9LE
16. Halls of residence, built in 1869
17. Relax or reflect in this George Square retreat
18. This Office assists students from abroad
19. The world's earliest surviving purpose-built musical museum
20. Houses a six-lane teaching and research pool
21. Veterinary hospital at Easter Bush
22. See a Festival Fringe show here
23. Diseases research institute at Little France (acronym)
24. Some of the Flodden Wall remains near these yards
25. Music students learn here

Previous winners: Nathalie Dupin, Institute for Astronomy, (Spot the Difference); Kerry-Ann Robertson, Estates & Buildings (Word Search).

noticeboard

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Austria: family-owned traditional chalet, 75min drive SE of Salzburg (or 150min drive from Edinburgh's budget flight to Munich). Well equipped for all seasons, in a south-facing rural setting with beautiful views at 1000m in the Dachstein mountains. Sleeps 10+. CH and DG. Pay in pounds for good value in Europe! Tel 0131 447 2231/0165187 2889 or email Robwrate@googlemail.com www.mirlhofchalet.co.uk

Griffiths-Wilmsen apartment, Berlin-Charlottenburg. Fully equipped spacious one bedroom; cafes, shops at doorstep. Central location; public transport connections nearby. Available for short and long stays. Contact agent: Frau Jaenika, +49 30 32709072, charlottenburg@berlinahotels.de.

Flats to let

Two bedroom furnished flat, Newington, from September for 6-12 months. Top (3rd) floor of well maintained tenement stair. Shared drying green. £500 pcm, one month's deposit in advance. Suit staff or postgrads. Contact jo.shaw@ed.ac.uk.

Morningside, one year from August '09 @ £1000 per month, exceptional, quiet, furnished, self-contained flat. 2 bedrooms, study, livingroom, dining, kitchen & bathroom. Off-street parking & garage. No students. Details from Sym: 0131 447 2735 or strandpeggy@yahoo.com

Delightful, sunny, modern two-bedroom flat. En suite shower room, bathroom with shower, sitting room with bay window, kitchen. Private parking, decorated to high standard. Just off Bonnington Road. Available June 2009. Fixed price, £1,700. Contact F.Pullin@ed.ac.uk

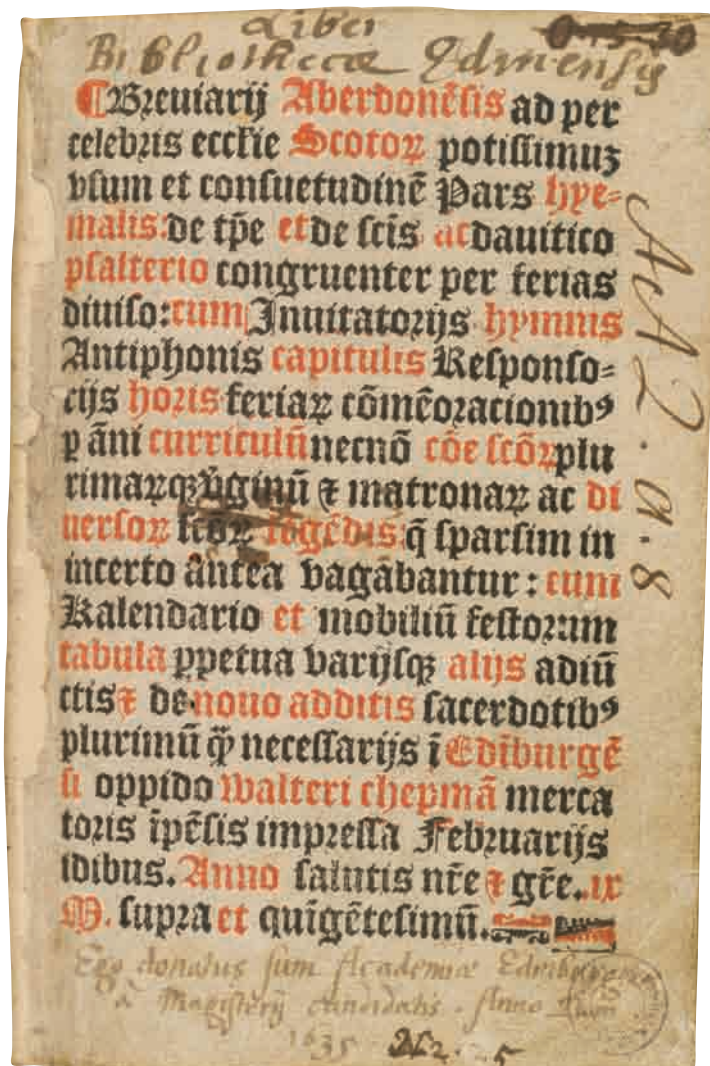
Academic's charming, light, attractively furnished flat, central (Bruntsfield by canal). Double bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, gch, washerdryer, residents' parking. From September, possibly earlier, for academic year or longer. doreen.mcbarnet@csis.ox.ac.uk

Grange. Beautiful flat, attractively furnished. 2 bedrooms (1 dble 1 single), sitting/dining-rm, bathroom, kitchen, GCH. Pleasantly situated. South-facing, gorgeous views. Suit N/S academics. £695 pcm. Available from 1st Aug. Tel 0131 667 0919. email jpalfery@yahoo.com

First-floor Victorian flat on Leith Walk, shared rear garden. Lounge, large dining kitchen, two double bedrooms. Fine period features. Habitat kitchen units, Smeg gas cooker. Monthly rent: £700.-. 0131 5547440 or 07946 944313. View Images at <http://leithwalk.blogspot.com> e-mail: david.krasa@ed.ac.uk

Flat wanted

Visiting professor (non-smoker) seeks temporary accommodation for Sept-Dec 2009. The flat should be (partially) furnished, one bedroom (or studio) and within walking distance to George Square. Please email Dr Alison Lenton (a.lenton@ed.ac.uk) to get in touch with this prospective tenant.



Showcase

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

The Aberdeen Breviary

The *Aberdeen Breviary* is a 16th-century prayer book that, despite its name, was printed in Edinburgh and gifted to the University Library by graduates in 1635. It is the finest surviving copy of the first major book printed in Scotland. For more information, visit www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/collections/specdivision/ch200803.shtml.