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# Contents



## Features

### 10 Top Recognition for Staff

The University staff acknowledged in the New Year Honours List

### 12 Faster, Higher, Stronger

Edinburgh alumni prepare for the Beijing Olympic Games

### 16 The Missing Piece

*Edit* meets Professor Peter Higgs, the man behind the elusive particle, the Higgs boson

## Regulars

### 02 University News

### 18 Alumni Network

### 21 World Service

### 24 Talbot Rice Gallery

### 25 Billet

(including details of the General Council Meeting in Washington DC in June)

## Foreword

Welcome to the Summer 2008 issue of *Edit*.

As we send out this edition across the globe, many alumni will be preparing to gather in Washington DC in June for the General Council's very first meeting in the United States. This will no doubt be a stimulating and productive weekend.

A select few of our alumni are preparing to make a journey in the other direction – to Beijing, where they will represent the University of Edinburgh as well as Great Britain in August's summer Olympic Games (see page 12). In this issue we also wind back the clock to when physicist Professor Peter Higgs first proposed the existence of the elusive particle, the Higgs boson. You'll find his story on page 16.

Wherever life takes you this summer, we hope you will stay in touch. As you can see from the World Service pages, Edinburgh graduates are helping to shape and improve the world in many exciting and significant ways. We encourage you to share your story and, as always, we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

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

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# University News



## The University and Roslin join forces

The University of Edinburgh and the Roslin Institute have joined forces with a union that will serve to enhance cutting-edge research.

The Roslin Institute has officially become part of the University through the creation of an institute that will include research formerly carried out at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

The new organisation has retained the Roslin Institute name, and will keep a continuing focus on animal health and welfare, sustainable agriculture and animal medicine.

With the inclusion of 18 group leaders and their teams from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, along with an additional 10 group leaders to be recruited over the next few years, the Roslin Institute will effectively double in size, with research focusing on

areas such as infectious diseases, immunology, growth and development, genetics and genomics.

Professor David Hume, who joined as director of Roslin last year, says: "The joining together of Roslin and the University is happening at an exciting time for animal science in Scotland.

"Not only will it boost research but it also coincides with the official launch of the Easter Bush Research Consortium (EBRC) – a venture that involves some 450 scientists from the Roslin Institute, the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and the Moredun Research Institute,

which will create one of the largest concentrations of animal science in the world."

Researchers from the Roslin Institute, along with Animal Sciences researchers from the SAC, will be housed in a £58.5 million state-of-the-art building at the University's Easter Bush campus, planned for completion in 2010.

The benefits of such a critical mass of researchers from different organisations working under one roof means they can share expertise, avoid duplication of research and pool expensive resources, enabling more cost-effective science to be carried out.

## Supercomputer officially launches

HECToR, the supercomputer based at the University's Advanced Computing Facility (ACF), was officially launched earlier this year.

Hosted jointly by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council and the University, the launch event was an opportunity to showcase the capabilities of the multimillion-pound system, which is capable of 63 million, million calculations per second. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alastair Darling, was one of the high-profile guests in attendance.

The system represents the equivalent of approximately 12,000 desktop systems, and will enable researchers throughout the UK to undertake increasingly complex computer simulations across a range of scientific disciplines.



HECToR the supercomputer was officially launched earlier this year

Addressing the event, University Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, said: "HECToR places us in a unique position to compete, on behalf of the UK, for the new European-scale HPC centres, which are likely to be established in the next three to five years."

## Edinburgh named in world top five

The University of Edinburgh has been named among the top five best places in the world for postdoctorate researchers to work.

A survey of scientists in research institutions, conducted by the *Scientist* magazine, ranked Edinburgh fourth in a global list and praised the University for the quality of training, mentoring and guidance and career advice available to researchers.

Scientists also commended the networking opportunities available at the University and rated highly, the calibre of scientists and the positive atmosphere and community at the institution.

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

## Honorary degrees recognise distinguished achievements

Lord Sainsbury, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science, was among a number of prominent public figures to receive honorary degrees at the University's winter graduation ceremonies.

Lord Sainsbury, a noted philanthropist and founder of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor *honoris causa*.

Also receiving an honorary degree of Doctor *honoris causa* were George Reid, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament from 2003 until May this year; and art collector and dealer Anthony d'Offay, a leading figure on the British art scene since the 1960s.

Other figures to be honoured were Sir Keith O'Nions, Director General of the Research Council (honorary degree of Doctor of Science); Peter Riddell, Assistant Editor of *The Times* (honorary degree of Doctor of Letters); Professor Michael Anderson, a former Senior Vice-Principal of the University of



Lord Sainsbury

Edinburgh (honorary degree of Doctor *honoris causa*); and Professor Ian Howard, Principal of Edinburgh College of Art (honorary degree of Doctor *honoris causa*).



The winter graduation ceremonies took place in McEwan Hall

## World-class economics centre opens

A new world-class institute to help researchers tackle some of the challenges facing the economy has been officially opened at the University of Edinburgh.

The Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (SIRE) brings together researchers from 10 Scottish universities to collaborate on areas of research and to respond to increasing international competition. Their findings will inform future Government policy.

The £21 million institute has been granted £9.4 million from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Additional funding will come from the University of Edinburgh as well as Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, Napier, Paisley, St Andrews, Stirling and Strathclyde universities.

SIRE is using the funds to recruit 18 professorships and 18 lectureships, and to support the development of collaborative research and training activities. The research pool initiative provides a forum for economics experts in Scotland.

Stuart Sayer, Head of Economics at the University of Edinburgh and Executive Director of SIRE, says: "Working in collaboration with other universities in Scotland, the Institute will develop and sustain a reputation for research excellence, which will enable economic research in Scotland to compete effectively in the global marketplace and enhance the quality of economic policy advice available in Scotland."

# University News

## University awarded for energy efficiency effort

The University has won a National Energy Efficiency Award for energy management in buildings.

The accolade was given for the Trigeneration project – combined heat and power (CHP) with cooling – which serves the George Square campus.

The system connects 14 buildings, with another seven due to be added over the next five years.

The George Square system was the University's third CHP project and was completed in 2005. It was the culmination of four years' investment totalling £12 million in low-carbon infrastructure.

Since 2003, the University has installed state-of-the-art combined heat and power systems in three of its five campuses. The systems now generate £1 million savings annually and have cut carbon emissions by more than 4,000 tonnes per year.

## Edinburgh rated top study location

Overseas students have rated the University of Edinburgh as one of the best places in the world to study.

In a survey of more than 80 international institutions, by the International Graduate Insight Group (i-graduate), Edinburgh was placed third internationally and first among the Russell Group of leading British research-led universities.

The ranking is compiled from the largest ever survey of international students in the UK. Questions covered issues such as what they think of student accommodation and how highly they rate the teaching standards.



Photographs by Paul Watt

## Candles lit in memory of the Holocaust

Edinburgh students and staff joined members of the local community to mark the national Holocaust Memorial Day earlier this year with an event in the University's Chaplaincy.

The event, themed "remember, reflect and react", provided the opportunity to remember the millions of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

The non-denominational service represented the many different victims of the Holocaust and reflected on more recent examples of genocide such as the conflict in Darfur and ethnic cleansing in Rwanda and Bosnia.

The event's guest speaker was Holocaust survivor and Edinburgh resident David Goldberg, who arrived in the UK in 1939 as part of the *Kindertransport* – the name given to the mission to rescue children from Nazi-occupied Europe in the months preceding the outbreak of the Second World War.

Mr Goldberg lit the first of seven candles in memory of the victims, while other candles were lit by University Chaplain, Reverend Diane Williams, and students from across the University, including members of the Jewish Society, Disabled Students Group and BLOGS, the LGBT student group.



Students, staff and community members gathered to "remember, reflect and react" at the Holocaust Memorial Day

Gordon Aikman, Edinburgh University Students' Association Vice-President, Societies and Activities, says: "The event acted as a very fitting memorial, allowing staff, students and members of our local community the opportunity to come together to remember, reflect and demonstrate that the tragedies of the past will not easily be forgotten."

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## Confucius Institute honoured

The University's Confucius Institute has been acknowledged as a role model for similar institutes around the world.

Professor Natascha Gentz, Director of the Confucius Institute, accepted an award acknowledging the honour at a ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, on Tiananmen Square.

Opened by Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, last September, the Confucius Institute for Scotland is a national centre to promote economic, educational and cultural ties between Scotland and China. As well as organising events in culture, politics and business, the Institute also offers tailor-made courses.

The event, which was chaired by State Councillor Chen Zhili (also Chair of the Council of the Confucius Institute), provided an opportunity for university principals and academics from around the world to meet senior Chinese politicians, including Education Minister Zhou Ji.

In an address to the ceremony, the University of Edinburgh's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, stressed the importance of the role played by universities in building cross-cultural understanding.

He said: "As the new China has emerged onto the world stage, with new, enlightened policies for international collaboration in education



and research, it was natural for the University to respond with enthusiasm to the opportunity to enhance its historical engagement with China."

The University's Confucius Institute was further honoured by an invitation from the Office of Chinese Language Council International to be represented on the first ever Council of the Confucius Institute Headquarters, which will meet annually.

## Edinburgh welcomes Delhi to Universitas 21

Edinburgh warmly welcomes the University of Delhi to membership of Universitas 21, the network for international higher education.

Established in 1997, Universitas 21 (U21) aims to facilitate collaboration and co-operation between its member universities.

It will now have an even greater geographic spread, over 13 countries, and will benefit greatly from the inclusion of this important university. The opportunities that this partnership will create – both for the University of Delhi and the other members of the network – are eagerly anticipated.

The University of Edinburgh's Secretary, Melvin Cornish, says: "This will open new possibilities for student exchange, provide opportunities to extend our research collaborations, and offer us all an alternative view on activities around the network. This is great news for the University of Edinburgh and all members of U21."

The University of Delhi is one of the oldest and largest universities in India, with around 300,000 enrolled students. It is the first university from the Indian subcontinent to become a member of U21.

## New Vice-Principal and Head of College

The University is delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Nigel Brown as Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science & Engineering.

He will be responsible for leadership of the College and will also contribute to the development of the University's strategy.

Professor Brown brings a wealth of

experience to the University. He is currently Director of Science and Technology at the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council, and was also a key contributor to the strategic development of Research Councils UK.

Professor Brown takes up his new post in September.



Professor Nigel Brown

# University News

## Scholars celebrate at special ceremony

More than 400 scholars attended the University's annual awards ceremony to mark their achievement in receiving a prestigious scholarship or Research Council funding for the 2007–08 academic session.

The award holders came from more than 70 different countries and spanned every discipline across the University. This is the fourth year the University has held this significant event, which provides an opportunity to thank sponsors and donors for their support, as well as to celebrate the achievements of the University's students.

The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, congratulated all the scholars "for their outstanding achievement in receiving some of the most prestigious scholarships for study within the UK, as well as research funding from a number of sources including the UK Research Councils."

The Principal also announced at the ceremony, funding of more than £1 million, which has just recently been allocated by the University's Development Trust to fund bursaries and scholarships for the 2008–09 academic session. Full details on available scholarships can be found at [www.scholarships.ed.ac.uk](http://www.scholarships.ed.ac.uk).



Scholarship winner Peng He



Overseas students helped launch the University of Edinburgh's new tartan



## New tartan design is unveiled

The University of Edinburgh has officially launched its new tartan.

The tartan was launched by five overseas students, who came to the University after winning places on the prestigious Scottish International Scholarship Programme.

The tartan's design has been created using muted versions of the University colours of blue, red and white. These shades have been overlaid to create an ancient-style tartan, reflecting the history of the University as a seat of learning.

The design has been incorporated into the Scottish Tartans World Register.

Nicolson Highlandwear of Canongate, Edinburgh ([www.nicolsonhighlandwear.co.uk](http://www.nicolsonhighlandwear.co.uk)), has designed the tartan and is the exclusive high street stockist.

The full range of tartan products (including hire kilts) will also be available at the new University of Edinburgh Visitor Centre ([www.universitycentre.ed.ac.uk](http://www.universitycentre.ed.ac.uk)) on Charles Street.

## Mobile phone camera team wins invention prize

Four University researchers who played a key role in the development of the mobile phone camera were honoured at a ceremony in London recently.

The electronic engineers were awarded the Rank Prize for their work in developing and commercialising technology, which is used every day by millions of people.

Peter Denyer, David Renshaw, Wang Guoyu and Lu Mingying will receive the £80,000 prize – set up by the late Lord

Rank to recognise scientific advances that have benefited mankind – for their camera design work that began in the early 1980s.

The team began by producing simple black and white cameras, before moving on to more complex devices.

Professor Denyer says: "It is a pleasure for any engineer to see their work in use every day, by millions of people, and a great honour to receive this award."



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

## University to co-host international suicide prevention symposium

The University of Edinburgh is to team up with the University of Stirling to host an international symposium on suicide prevention and research.

The 12th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (ESSSB12), which will bring together 400 leading researchers, clinicians and policy planners, aims to share insights that may help those at risk of engaging in suicidal behaviour.

Experts from around the world will be invited to speak on all aspects of suicide, including the psychological element of suicidal behaviour, school-based strategies for reducing adolescent suicide and the treatment of those at risk.

To be held in Glasgow from 27–30 August, the conference will highlight Scotland's place at the forefront of suicide prevention efforts.

Professor Stephen Platt, Director of the Research Unit in Health, Behaviour and Change at the University, is Co-President of the event. He says: "The conference aims to bring together the leading authorities on suicide prevention from across the globe. As suicide prevention is everyone's business, the conference will appeal to anyone with an interest in this field."

## Baby research centre opened

Sarah Brown, the Prime Minister's wife, officially opened baby charity Tommy's third research centre of excellence, for maternal and fetal health during pregnancy, which is located at the University.

The Centre is based at the Queen's Medical Research Institute and has enabled Tommy's to extend into Scotland for the first time, with the University forming a network for new clinical trials with Tommy's two existing research centres at London's St Thomas' Hospital and St Mary's Hospital in Manchester.

Tommy's sole focus is on preventing pregnancy complications.



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## Research News

# Scientists move towards stem cell therapy trials

Scientists at the University are developing a revolutionary way to mend damaged bones and cartilage using a patient's own stem cells.

The UK Stem Cell Foundation, the Medical Research Council and Scottish Enterprise, in partnership with the Chief Scientist's Office, are funding a £1.4 million project to further stem cell research at the University, with a view to setting up a clinical trial within two years.

The initiative could have a major impact on treating conditions such as osteoarthritis, as well as treating trauma victims whose bones have been shattered beyond repair.

It involves using a 'bioactive scaffold' made to protect the stem cells and simulate their growth into bone or cartilage, once they are placed in the affected area.

Dr Brendon Noble, of the University's Medical Research Council Centre for Regenerative Medicine, says: "The aim is to translate the knowledge we have gained from bone biology studies into tangible treatments for patients."



Scientists are developing revolutionary methods to mend damaged bones

# Excavations in Iran unravel mystery of the 'Red Snake'

University archaeologists have helped unearth new discoveries at an ancient frontier wall in Iran, which provide evidence that the Persians matched the Romans for military might and engineering prowess.

An international team of archaeologists from Iran and the universities of Edinburgh and Durham are exploring the Great Wall of Gorgan in

north-eastern Iran. A barrier of awesome scale and sophistication, the 'Red Snake' is more than 1,000 years older than the Great Wall of China, and longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together.

It is thought that the 'Red Snake' was a defence system, and researchers estimate that some 30,000 soldiers could have been stationed along it.

Dr Eberhard Sauer, of the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics & Archaeology, believes the project challenges the traditional Euro-centric world view.

"The Persians seem to match, or more than match, their late Roman rivals in army strength, organisational skills, engineering and water management," he explains.



Happiness is partly determined by personality traits, say researchers

# Happiness is down to the 'right genes'

Happiness in life is as much down to having the right genetic mix as it is to personal circumstances, a new study from the University of Edinburgh reveals.

Psychologists at the University, working with researchers at Queensland Institute for Medical Research in Australia, found that happiness is partly determined by personality traits and that both personality and happiness are largely hereditary.

Using a framework called the Five-Factor Model, which psychologists use to rate personalities, the researchers found that people who do not

excessively worry, and who are sociable and conscientious, tend to be happier. They suggested that this personality mix can act as a buffer when people experience difficult times.

Dr Alexander Weiss, of the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, led the research. He says: "Although happiness is subject to a wide range of external influences, we have found that there is a heritable component of happiness which can be entirely explained by genetic architecture of personality."

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# Edinburgh researcher joins exploration of Antarctic lake

A researcher from the University of Edinburgh joined a scientific team who explored an ancient lake hidden deep beneath Antarctica's ice sheet.

The lake could yield vital clues to the origins of life on Earth, climate change and future sea-level rise.

Dr Neil Ross from the University's School of GeoSciences was part of the four-man team led by Dr Andy Smith of the British Antarctic Survey. They were camped at one of the most remote places on Earth, and conducted a series of experiments on the ice.

This ambitious exploration of subglacial Lake Ellsworth, West Antarctica, is part of the International Polar Year project, and involves scientists from 14 UK universities and research institutes, as well as colleagues from Chile, the US, Sweden, Belgium, Germany and New Zealand. Principal Investigator for International Polar Year is Professor Martin Siegert, Head of the School of GeoSciences at Edinburgh.

Professor Siegert says: "Getting into the lake is a huge technological challenge but the effort is worth it. [Its] potential for unusual life forms could shed new light on evolution of life in harsh conditions; lake-floor sediments could yield vital clues to past climate."



The team of researchers set up camp in remote West Antarctica

## Institutions team up in search for dark matter

A collaborative project between the University of Edinburgh, Imperial College London, STFC Appleton Laboratory and international partners may answer one of the biggest questions of modern science.

Scientists in a laboratory one kilometre underground will conduct a series of experiments to confirm the existence of dark matter, the material that is thought to account for much of the mass of the universe but which has never been proven to exist.

The project involves operating a very sensitive detector, which is hoped to identify particles that constitute dark matter. Wimps – or Weakly Interacting Massive Particles – are hard to find, as they do not interact with other matter easily.

The detector, called Zeplin III, is housed at Boulby Underground Laboratory in North Yorkshire. The purpose-built facility is housed in the UK's largest commercial mine, which is operated by Cleveland Potash.

## RESEARCH NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sign language glossary

A new vocabulary of British Sign Language has been developed by specialists at the University to help make communication of science easier for deaf pupils. Experts have compiled a glossary of more than 250 signs for scientific terms, and will allow a simple word like 'virus' to be communicated with a single hand gesture rather than spelling it out, letter by letter.

### All in good breeding?

Paying top racehorse stud fees may not bring in the rewards people might expect, according to a recent study. Edinburgh scientists have shown that up to 90 per cent of a horse's lifetime winnings can be attributed to how the horse is reared, trained and ridden, rather than its parentage. After comparing the stud fees and earnings of more than 4,000 racehorses, researchers found that paying higher fees does not necessarily buy access to the most successful horses.

### Student breakthrough

Research carried out by third-year University of Edinburgh medical student Kyle Gibson, 21, could prove a lifesaver for diabetes sufferers at risk of vascular complications. Kyle discovered that the drug N-acetylcysteine, commonly used to reverse the effects of paracetamol overdoses, can help control the 'sticky' blood that is common in diabetic patients and which can lead to blood clots, resulting in heart attacks, strokes and blocked arteries.

### Tackling nuclear waste

Edinburgh researchers have designed a 'Pacman'-like molecule that may help develop ways of dealing with nuclear waste. The scientists took the most common form of uranium, which is very chemically unreactive, and enclosed it in a specially designed molecular scaffold, which creates a much more reactive molecule. 'Tricking' uranium like this may help environmental scientists discover new ways of removing uranium from contaminated water.

# University News

## Top recognition for University staff

When Buckingham Palace announces the New Year Honours List each year, it is not unusual for members of staff from the University of Edinburgh to be among those receiving awards. Given the institution's size, diversity and influence – and the pool of talent that it nurtures – it is always likely that, from time to time, certain individuals from within the University community will get the recognition they deserve. However, the official news from the Palace in late December 2007 was truly exceptional – three members of University staff received knighthoods and a fourth was awarded an OBE.



Professor Jean Manson OBE (left)  
Professor Sir John Savill (right)

True to the spirit of the awards, all four individuals had kept them a closely guarded secret and consequently had no idea of their colleagues' good news until the morning of the formal announcement. According to the University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea – who even managed to keep the news of his own knighthood from his children – three knighthoods at once, within one institution, is without any precedent of which he is aware and has sent the University's reputation "through the roof". Here, ROB TOMLINSON introduces these distinguished and inspirational colleagues.

### Professor Jean Manson (OBE)

Professor Jean Manson OBE holds a personal chair at the University and is Head of the Neuropathogenesis Division of the Roslin Institute, which recently joined with the University. She and her team are carrying out pioneering research work into Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE). In simple terms this means she is at the cutting edge of scientific research into conditions such as BSE and variant CJD.



Professor Sir Ian Wilmot (left)  
Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea (right)

Professor Manson's surprise and pleasure at her own inclusion in the New Year Honours List was mixed with delight at the news of her three colleagues' achievements. "I would say it clearly demonstrates the high standing of the University," she says simply.

Her current ambitions centre on extending the boundaries of research into improving life-threatening conditions.

"With the development of the new Roslin Institute well under way, I am aiming to develop a division that has a high international standing in not only TSE research but other neurodegenerative diseases and basic neurobiology," she says.

"My TSE research will continue and my ambition is to understand the basic mechanisms of these diseases. I also want to assist the Director, Professor David Hume, in developing a world-class facility for the new Roslin Institute."

### Professor Sir John Savill (Knighthood)

As a trained doctor, Professor Sir John Savill, Head of the University's College of Medicine & Veterinary

Medicine, had no difficulty in keeping news of his knighthood quiet from family and friends.

"When you're told that something is confidential as a medic, you respect it," he reflects. What is no secret is his delight at what the honours mean for the University as a whole, and for the work of clinical scientists in general.

"I can't say I was surprised that the University had got this recognition, because we have some very special people here and it's an indication of how well things are going," he says.

"Clinical science is an embattled discipline in terms of the demands it puts on doctors. They have to pursue a career in a laboratory environment. We need to encourage people like that – it is a very challenging vocation to be an academic clinician."

He continues: "I don't regard the knighthood as an achievement; it's more a recognition of half a lifetime's work. It's a signal to go on fighting the battles – in that sense it's a kind of sanction."

### Professor Sir Ian Wilmot (Knighthood)

More than a decade ago, Dolly the sheep was created and Professor Sir Ian Wilmot's life changed forever. As the man heading the team that re-wrote the laws of biology and developed the nuclear transfer cloning technique that made this possible, he has become used to the plaudits and publicity that followed in Dolly's wake. But nothing could prepare him for the news that he was to receive a knighthood.

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"For one institution to receive three knighthoods is a great achievement. I was absolutely delighted because I have immense respect for the other recipients. It's not only good news for them, it's also very good news for the University," he says.

Formerly at the Roslin Institute, Professor Wilmot is now the Director of the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. The mission of this rapidly expanding centre is to develop new treatments for human disease through stem cell research. And, like his colleague Professor Sir John Savill, his aim now is fundamental – to simply keep going.

"There is much that I still want to do in my own particular field of work, mainly by contributing to the development of

new treatments for conditions such as Motor Neurone Disease. I say 'contribute' because the research will be going after I have retired, but if I can contribute that would be my ongoing aim."

### Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea (Knighthood)

As Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea regards the awards as an institution-wide achievement over and above any personal one – and it is on the University itself that his next set of goals now focus.

"I want us to build on the recent very high levels of achievement in terms of supporting student learning more effectively, particularly through new technology," he says.

"I also want to see us create more major centres for research that will support further intellectual, scientific and medical discoveries – with a particular emphasis on leading in creating new interdisciplinary areas such as synthetic biology, regenerative medicine and Indian Studies."

The Principal is also eager to single out the role played by the University's former students in its recent successes.

"The University's strong rise in worldwide reputation would not have been possible without the support and engagement of many committed alumni," he says.

"In particular, the financial support for new research endeavours and for student bursaries and scholarships has been critical to our collective success."

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Thank you on behalf of the staff and students at Edinburgh today



# **FASTER,** **HIGHER,**

As University of Edinburgh alumni *Chris Hoy* and *Katherine Grainger* prepare to take to the world stage during this summer's Beijing Olympic Games, *Edit* reports on how the University is playing a vital role in preparing and developing the Olympic medallists of the future.

Some of life's seminal moments are simply too exceptional to sum up in a pithy soundbite. Cyclist Chris Hoy struggles to describe what winning gold for his individual performance at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games meant to him: "The Olympics are the be-all and the end-all of an athlete's career. You can't express how it feels; it really is a lifetime's ambition to get gold. You don't fully appreciate it at the time but it really is life-changing."

It's an occasion Chris, 32, an Edinburgh sports science graduate, will be looking to repeat when he competes in both the team sprint and individual track cycling events at Beijing this summer. Also competing will be fellow graduate Katherine Grainger, who is highly fancied to secure a gold medal in rowing for the Great Britain team. Katherine, 32, who has

BY CLAIRE SIMPSON



#### That winning feeling

Katherine Grainger (above, second from left) and Chris Hoy (opposite) celebrate after winning Olympic medals

*“While I was studying and rowing it was a crazily busy year but everyone, from the lecturers at the Law School to the staff at the Sports Union and Sports Centre, was encouraging. The support certainly helped me to achieve all that I did.”*

KATHERINE GRAINGER

# STRONGER

previously won two Olympic silvers for sculling at Sydney and Athens, took up her sport while studying law at Edinburgh.

The oarswoman's achievements, alongside those of Chris, are testament to the combination of top-class training facilities and sports clubs on offer at the University, which is ranked by the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) as Scotland's top sporting university, and fourth in the UK. Furthermore, as alumni of the University, they serve as inspirational role models to the current crop of student athletes who have their sights set on the 2012 London Olympic Games.

One of those students is Jenny Jeppsson, who, like Katherine, discovered her sport when she arrived at Edinburgh. The 25-year-old Swede came to the University with ambitions to follow a scientific career as a physicist, and came across the archery club at the annual Sports Fair. Four years on, Jenny is a triple BUSA Championship winner and hopes to set up a possible sideline career in archery and represent Sweden in 2012.

Jenny credits the University's archery club, which is well respected within the sport, for its assistance in her development. “With a club system you have a basic one-to-one instruction,” she explains. “After a couple of weeks the kits are handed out to people who have demonstrated they are progressing. I was one of the last people in the club to get my own equipment but once I did, I realised that I can actually aim.”

The University of Edinburgh has 65 sports clubs, membership of which offers many life-enhancing benefits, as well as a potential route to sport at a more serious level as Jenny and, of course, Katherine discovered. “I had no ambitions to compete internationally when I started,” Katherine, the University's 2001 Alumnus of the Year, recalls. “I spent the first year as a novice and my second year in the very bottom boat – but every year I improved and by my third year at University I rowed for Scotland. At the end of my final year I had made it into the GB team.”

Jim Aitken, the University's Director of Sport and Exercise, says universities are

now able to look ambitiously at how sport can attract students into higher education, with a view to a sporting exit at the other end. “Universities play a key role in supporting the development of sporting talent through the provision of top-class training and competition facilities, innovative athlete support programmes, research and development, flexible study options, enlightened community access partnerships and so forth,” he says. “Elite sports should be based within universities; we are their natural home.”

National sport agency SportScotland predicts that 50 per cent of Scotland's future major-events medallists will have spent a portion of their lives in higher or further education, highlighting the pivotal role universities can play in nurturing athletic talent. Its recent review of the provision of elite sport within higher education concluded that universities could provide a positive environment for a top-class athlete.

The review noted that higher education institutions offer great potential in terms of resources, and retaining talented young people – who between 16 and 24 are at a greater risk of dropping out – within sport. Importantly, it also recommended that universities could contribute to a national strategy for medal success if their role was incorporated into that strategy.





#### Golden opportunities

The award-winning gym is just one of the University of Edinburgh's first-rate sports facilities

The University of Edinburgh has indeed proven itself to be an exemplary hub for elite sports. Chris Hoy was attracted to the University for its reputation in sports science and not only benefited from the quality coaching, strength and conditioning programmes on offer, but also from his supportive surroundings. "The environment was conducive to development – there was a broad cross section of athletes training at the same time, and that was really helpful. You can bounce ideas off each other," he recalls.

Katherine agrees: "I was in a great club and the people trained hard and played hard – they kept me going through the difficult times. While I was studying and rowing and captain of the boat club it was a crazily busy year but everyone, from the lecturers at the Law School to the staff at the Sports Union and Sports Centre, was always interested and encouraging. I was very lucky and the support certainly helped me to achieve all that I did."

However, it is the bursary system that can really assist an athlete to remain at the top of their game while studying, according to Jim Aitken, who is also Chair of Scottish Universities Sport (SUS). "The support we can offer through a club or the bursary programme is a key ingredient to keeping an athlete on their development path," he says. "On the bursary programme we assure them their development is at least at a steady increase, if not an accelerated improvement in performance."

The University offers three sports bursary programmes: one in golf, a multi-sport bursary for individual athletes and a team bursary programme. There are currently 26 students on the programme who are at junior international standard or better, and it is this group who are touted for future Olympic success.

The bursars are privy to the very best in medical care and support. FASIC, the University's own sports medicine centre,

is used by leading athletes in the UK, and the student athletes also benefit from a new sports psychology programme alongside expert strength and conditioning support, time management guidance, mentoring support and sports nutrition advice.

In addition to the existing bursary programme, the University is on the brink of announcing a new layer of bursary targeted specifically at the Olympic or Commonwealth games athlete. It will offer a higher mode of support to athletes who are major contenders. If approved, eight elite sports bursaries will be offered.

Another significant attraction to any budding athlete is the University's first-rate sports facilities, which include an award-winning gym, a 25-metre swimming pool and a new climbing wall, plus an outdoor education centre at Firbush Point and world-class playing fields at Peffermill.

Notably, Peffermill has been announced as a pre-Olympics training camp for London 2012, providing an excellent opportunity for Edinburgh to grab a slice of the Olympics pie. The University is also working on plans, in conjunction with Edinburgh Council, to promote the city of Edinburgh as a prime location for pre-Olympic or Commonwealth Games team training, touting much of the University's sports facilities and accommodation as key drawcards.

With all the ingredients in place to offer the appropriate environment for future Olympic-standard athletes, the University is now creating opportunities and provision to allow students to emulate the achievements of the likes of Chris Hoy and Katherine Grainger.

One such student who is perhaps already well on her way to similar success is Jenny Jeppsson. "Four years ago, I would probably have said, 'Me, going to the Olympics? That's a laugh!'" she says. "But it's actually possible. I could actually be there, and that's quite thrilling."

## EDINBURGH'S SPORTING HEROES: PAST AND PRESENT

*Edit rounds up just some of our former and current students who have achieved excellence in their field.*

#### KATHERINE GRAINGER MBE (*Law*)

Katherine was introduced to rowing at the University's Fresher's Fair. She is now one of Britain's leading oarswomen, with two Olympic silver medals under her belt and a solid chance at gold at Beijing. She has also won five World Championships medals.

#### CHRIS HOY MBE (*Sports Science*)

A multiple world track cyclist champion, Chris took Olympic silver at Sydney (2000) and gold at Athens (2004). He has also won three Commonwealth Games medals (two gold, one bronze) and was BBC Scotland Sports Personality of the Year in 2003.

#### ANDY IRVINE (*Geology/Geography*)

An inductee of the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame and International Rugby Hall of Fame, Andy played fullback for Scotland, with 51 caps, and is a former president of the Scottish Rugby Union.

#### ERIC LIDDELL (*Pure Science*)

Athletics and rugby formed a large part of Eric's student life but his unexpected gold medal in the 400 metres race at the 1924 Paris Olympics made him a household name and inspired the film *Chariots of Fire*.

#### ALISON RAMSAY MBE (*Law*)

Alison won a bronze medal for hockey at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. With more than 250 appearances for both Scotland and Great Britain and Northern Ireland, she is one of the world's most capped female hockey players.

## ONES TO WATCH...

#### ALAN CLYNE (*fourth-year Physical Education*)

Alan has just won the British University Squash title and has made the transition from Scotland's Junior number one to Senior number one in less than a year. A likely candidate for London 2012.

#### STEPHEN DICK (*third-year Physical Education*)

Stephen is on a year out to focus on hockey. He recently took part in the Men's Olympics Qualifying tournament in Chile, where Great Britain qualified for Beijing.

#### JENNY JEPPSSON (*first-year Physics PhD*)

Jenny (below) has won the BUSA competition three times and is working towards representing Sweden at London in 2012.



Photograph by Chris Sainsbury



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**The Carlyle Circle** has over 800 members who have pledged to support the University in their Wills. Many of the University's greatest achievements have been made possible by the generosity of individuals whose vision lives on through their legacies. Legacies provide funds for teaching facilities, research and student scholarships and are vital for the continued development of the University.

Cathryn Spence has been able to fulfil her dream of studying Scottish History thanks to her scholarship funded by a legacy:

*"I don't think I can describe how huge this is – it's made the difference between me being here and not being here. I want to communicate how important these donations are but I'm lost for words. What can I say except thanks about a hundred times."*

**Cathryn Spence, History PhD student and Scholarship recipient.**

**Chairman and member of the Carlyle Circle, Dr Michael Cross explains why he and his wife Janet have pledged a legacy to the University of Edinburgh.**

"Universities are very special places. They are the skills laboratory and factory for society and the economy. It is where knowledge, industry and humanity are linked by an indissoluble chain. Edinburgh is one of the great universities which delivers across all agendas and makes our world a better place. It is the ultimate charity and greatly deserves all the support we can give it."

A gift in your Will means so much. Join the Carlyle Circle today and make a commitment to the future and success of the University of Edinburgh, and to the many students who are able to benefit from receiving scholarships as a result.

**For more information contact Morag Murison on 0131 650 2240 or [morag.murison@ed.ac.uk](mailto:morag.murison@ed.ac.uk)**



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FOUR DECADES AGO, PHYSICIST PETER HIGGS, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, DEvised A THEORY THAT EXPLAINS HOW THE UNIVERSE IS PIECED TOGETHER. NOW, AS SCIENTISTS THE WORLD OVER RACE TO FIND THE ELUSIVE PARTICLE, THE HIGGS BOSON – PERHAPS THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER PRIZE IN MODERN PHYSICS – WE MEET THE MAN WHO PROPOSED ITS EXISTENCE. BY JESSICA GRIGGS

the

# missing piece

Professor Peter Higgs can still recall the moment he first realised he was famous. His colleague returned from a conference and told him so. This mild-mannered, somewhat reclusive 78-year-old has been trying to get used to his fame ever since.

Whether he likes the notoriety or not, Professor Higgs will be remembered as the physicist who formulated the mechanism that endows everything in the universe with that fundamental but often overlooked quality, mass. Why is a feather light but a metal ball heavy? Why are some particles many times heavier than others? His ideas, and the particle that would prove them – the Higgs boson, or “God particle” as it is often nicknamed, much to a humble Professor Higgs’s discomfort – have prompted a search that is widely held to be the most important quest for modern particle physics.

So important, in fact, that the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has spent billions of pounds building new atom-smashing machinery to track down the Higgs boson, with some 2,000 physicists working on the project. When it opens near Geneva later this year, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which comprises a 17-mile circular tunnel 300 feet below the Alpine foothills along the Swiss–French border, will be the biggest and highest energy particle accelerator ever built. The gigantic instrument will re-create the conditions that existed just a tiny fraction of a second after the Big Bang, by smashing pieces of atoms together at high speed.

At the very least, the Higgs boson will fill in the gaps in our understanding of the particles that make up all matter – it will be the final piece of a jigsaw known as the Standard Model of particle physics. But hopefully its discovery will do much more, and perhaps shed light on what happened at the very beginning of the universe (and give us clues as to how it might end). If the Higgs boson does exist, the LHC should find it and if it doesn’t, as Professor Higgs muses, “there is something very strange going on.”



Born in 1929 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Peter missed a lot of early schooling – his education was interrupted by his father's career relocations, serious bouts of asthma and the Second World War. He eventually settled into Bristol's Cotham Grammar School, where his interest in mathematics and physics was born.

Standing at the back of morning assembly, Peter would scan the names of successful alumni on the school honours board, and appearing more times than most was the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Paul Dirac, a "grand old man of the past" who, like Stephen Hawking, took the chair at Cambridge that was once occupied by Sir Isaac Newton. "I spent some years finding out what he had done and that stimulated my interest in physics," recalls Professor Higgs of his early mentor.

After graduating with a first in physics from King's College, University of London, in 1950, Peter went on to study for a Masters and then a PhD. After a stint as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and various posts at UCL and Imperial College, he became a temporary lecturer in Mathematics at UCL. He returned to Edinburgh in 1960 to take up the post of Lecturer in Mathematical Physics, allowing him to settle in a city he had fallen for after hitchhiking to the fringe festival as a student. It was here that the work he would go on to be remembered for began.

The basis of Professor Higgs's work came from the Japanese-born American theorist Yoichiro Nambu, from the University of Chicago.

would be no possibility of proving the Goldstone theorem if the associated symmetry was spontaneously broken," he explains.

A second paper followed. This time, he described a theoretical model – what would come to be known as the Higgs mechanism. "It soon became clear what was going on – an analogue of what people already knew happened in a superconductor but now consistent with Einstein's relativity," Professor Higgs explains.

The paper was rejected. Defiant, Professor Higgs elaborated on his ideas and sent his paper to a leading American physics journal where it was published later that year. Those extra paragraphs ("the sales talk") drew attention to what we now know as the Higgs boson. Unbeknown to Professor Higgs, Belgian physicists Robert Brout and François Englert had reached the same conclusion around the same time, and the previous year, physicist Philip Anderson had also questioned the Goldstone theorem. "If he had seen the need to explicitly knock down the Goldstone theorem or given a model where it was evaded, no one would ever have heard of me," Professor Higgs says modestly.

After publishing his seminal papers, Professor Higgs switched his attention to combining the fundamental forces of nature in high symmetries, something that still eludes physicists today. He swiftly moved up the ranks of academia at Edinburgh, being promoted to Personal Chair of Theoretical Physics in 1980. However, by the mid-1980s he felt he was "running out of steam" in terms of his

**"Peter has been a role model for four decades now. It is very exciting that the radical idea he had in the '60s finally has the potential to be proved."**

**Professor Andy Lawrence**, Head of School of Physics

"I became interested in what Nambu was doing," Professor Higgs explains. "He proposed a theory to the particle physics community that was inspired by what was already known to happen in superconductivity in condensed matter. It was an idea known as spontaneous symmetry breaking."

However, when the theory from superconductors was applied to particle physics, Professor Nambu stumbled across a problem – you always ended up producing massless particles. This idea became known as the Goldstone theorem. Unfortunately, this was not what the experimentalists were observing.

At this point, Professor Higgs got involved, trying "to see a way out of this" and to reconcile the theory with experimental observations. He finally hit upon what the solution might be. "It suddenly struck me that I knew what the answer was," he explains. "That the assumptions that had been used in the proof of the Goldstone theorem didn't actually apply when you had an interaction in the kind of field we were dealing with."

He continues: "The problem with the Goldstone theorem was that if it was true, it would just be a toy – it wouldn't apply to the real world. Otherwise, it would have been found experimentally. So for me, it was simply a matter of finding the loophole in the theorem."

Professor Higgs immediately set about writing a paper evading the Goldstone theorem, and it was published in a European physics journal, edited at CERN, in 1964. "I wrote a very short paper pointing out that if you had a theory like ours, then there

mathematical capabilities and decided to leave the theorising to the next generation. "They were the ones doing the important things whereas I got frustrated with the maths," he says.

Next, Professor Higgs turned his energies to devising projects for final-year students. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1983 and Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 1991. He retired in 1996, becoming Professor Emeritus at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Higgs remains a legendary figure within the University's School of Physics. Professor Andy Lawrence, Head of School, explains: "Peter has always been a very well liked and respected character, both personally and intellectually. He has been a role model for four decades now. It is very exciting that the radical idea he had in the '60s finally has the potential to be proved.

"The work at the LHC is closely tied to what our experimentalists have been working towards for years. This is a very exciting time."

It is widely accepted that if the Higgs boson is found at CERN, ironically, home to the editor who so famously rejected his initial ideas, Professor Higgs will be honoured with a Nobel Prize.

Characteristically reticent, he is concerned that the honour should be shared three ways. "I have felt for a long time that Nambu deserved to be in on this. Then there will be some experimentalist, so I don't know how they will pick the winner," he confides.

And when the wait is over? "My first reaction will be one of shock. And the second would be, 'Yes! Finally, a free trip to Stockholm!'"

# Alumni Network



## General Council celebrates with historic trip



Weekend events include a service in Washington DC's National Cathedral

A full programme of alumni events and activities will take place in Washington DC over the weekend of 13–15 June 2008 to coincide with the General Council's half-yearly meeting and to mark the Council's 150th anniversary.

The weekend's programme of events includes:

- a half-day conference on 'The Business Response to Climate Change';
- an evening reception and conferment of an Honorary Degree on US astronaut Neil Armstrong;
- tours of Georgetown University Campus led by local students;
- a champagne reception and gala dinner in the Library of Congress, with an exhibition from the Library's collections;
- a service in the National Cathedral;
- optional tours of Washington DC;
- a guided visit to the Holocaust Museum.

**For full details of all these events, please see page 31.**

## Staff, students and alumni to mark Geography milestone

To mark the milestone of 100 years of teaching Geography at the University of Edinburgh, the Institute of Geography, the University and alumni around the world are planning a number of activities to celebrate this significant occasion.

Key events for the Centenary include:

- a drinks reception with University Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, in the Playfair Library Hall on Friday 19 September 2008, 6.30pm;
- a Geography alumni open day/reunion on Saturday 20 September 2008. Includes lectures

on the School's research in human geography and physical geography, a lecture on 'Geography Now and Then', and the chance to visit the School and to look again at your dissertation;

- two high-profile public talks, designed to highlight the relevance of Geography in contemporary life. One will be given by Michael Palin, the well known broadcaster and geographical writer, on Thursday 9 October 2008;
- an exhibition, including objects from the geography archive, produced by current students and staff;

- numerous anniversary reunions. The Geography Centenary Committee would be delighted to learn of any classes initiating their own reunions.

The Committee welcomes the involvement of alumni in both the organisation of events being planned and in the initiation of additional activities for the Centenary year. Anyone wishing to be involved, or who has suggestions about potential speakers and/or additional class reunions, is invited to email [geogcentenary@geos.ed.ac.uk](mailto:geogcentenary@geos.ed.ac.uk). For more information, including booking details, visit [www.geos.ed.ac.uk/geography/centenary/](http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/geography/centenary/).

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

## FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS

### Rugby Football Club

#### Tour to Japan

University of Edinburgh RFC will tour Japan for the first time, in June this year. Alumni are welcome to attend all matches (scheduled, below), and a reception for alumni is planned for the evening of 12 June at a central Tokyo venue.

Any alumni wishing to attend the alumni reception should contact Matt Bennet at [mattbennet@hotmail.com](mailto:mattbennet@hotmail.com) for further details.

#### Match schedule:

##### 4 June vs Osaka Physical Education University



University campus, Kumatori-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka  
 Station: Kumatori, JR Hanwa line  
 Kick-off: 5pm

##### 7 June vs Kyoto University

Takaragaike Stadium, Kyoto  
 Station: Matsugasaki, Karasuma line  
 Kick-off: 2.30pm

##### 10 June vs Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club Invitation XV

Kobe Steel Rugby Ground, Nada-hama, Kobe  
 Station: Hanshin Mikage, Main line  
 Kick-off: 6.30pm

##### 14 June vs Tokyo University

Komaba, Tokyo  
 Station: Komaba-Todai-Mae, Keio-Inokashira line  
 Kick-off: 2.30pm

##### 17 June vs National Defence Academy

Hodogaya Rugby Ground, Hanamidai, Hodogaya, Yokohama.  
 Station: Hoshikawa, Sotetsu line  
 Kick-off: 4pm



### Sports Union (EUSU)

#### Alumni Association to focus on past and present

As a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, you will no doubt have many warm memories of the friendships, successes and enjoyment that came from taking part in sport at university.

Established in 1866 and currently hosting 65 member clubs, Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) has recently set up an Alumni Association. Its aim is to bring together the experiences and enthusiasm of former members, in order to celebrate our successful history and to help in developing the future of sport at Edinburgh.

Members will be kept informed about EUSU activities, receive invitations to reunions, be sent regular newsletters, and will get substantial discounts on clothing and other EUSU merchandise.

The Alumni Association is managed by a student-based Executive Committee and overseen by a Committee of Graduates. Members will be asked to make a monthly or annual contribution, 75 per cent of which will be directly redistributed to the club of their choice and the remaining 25 per cent subsidising the running costs of the Association.

To join, or to find out more, please visit <http://alumni.eusu.ed.ac.uk>.

### Alumni fee discount

The University of Edinburgh offers a 10 per cent discount on postgraduate tuition fees for all alumni who have graduated with an undergraduate degree from the University. The Graduate Discount Scheme applies to the self-funding elements of the postgraduate tuition fee. Visit [www.registry.ed.ac.uk/fees/graduate.htm](http://www.registry.ed.ac.uk/fees/graduate.htm) for more details.

### A helping hand

Receiving a bursary or scholarship can sometimes mean the difference between accepting a place at university or not. If you were the recipient of a bursary or scholarship at the University of Edinburgh, we'd love to hear from you. Let us know what course you studied, which award you received and how this transformed your life. Send a maximum of 200 words (photographs are also welcome) to [editor.edit@ed.ac.uk](mailto:editor.edit@ed.ac.uk).

# Alumni Network

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

## Reunions in 2008

### 1948 Agriculture

Alistair Dodds  
19 June  
Edinburgh

### 1948 Engineering

Douglas Lamond  
25 June  
Royal Burgess Golfing Society,  
Edinburgh

### 1948 MB ChB

Dr Douglas Bell  
17–18 June  
Ten Hill Place,  
Royal College of Surgeons

### 1958 MB ChB

Iain Davidson, Hugh Murray  
and William Cutting  
5–7 October  
Dunkeld House Hotel  
and Edinburgh

### 1958 Chemistry

Dilys Jeffrey-Smith  
3 September

### 1958 BVM&S

Geof Smith  
10–11 October  
Peebles

### 1958 Modern Languages

Gertrud Aub-Buscher  
5 July

### 1961 MB ChB

Brian Ivey  
6–9 September  
Ottawa, Canada

### 1963 MB ChB

Boyd Moir  
12–14 September

### 1968 BDS

Mike Smith & Iain Hathorn

### 30 September

Harrogate

### 1968 MB ChB

John Crispin  
22–24 August  
Peebles Hydro

### 1972/73 LLB

Alexander J Muirhead  
20–21 September  
Edinburgh

### 1973 Architecture

Andy McKean  
Lunch at noon on  
12 July and 11 September  
12 July, noon: lunch at Point  
Hotel, Edinburgh  
11 September, 1pm: lunch at  
Bacciana Annesso, Montone,  
Umbria, Italy

### 1973 BSc Nursing Studies

Rosie Peattie (née Usher)  
10–12 October

### 1978 BDS

Michael Barron  
7–9 November  
Edinburgh

### 1978 MB ChB

Phil Booth  
10–12 October  
Fairmont Hotel,  
St Andrew's Bay

### 1978 German

Elisabeth Watts  
21–22 June  
Edinburgh

### 1981 Architecture Dip 2

elizabethhacheson@msn.com  
Autumn  
Edinburgh

### 1983 Chemical Physics

Sandy Wynd  
June

### 1983 Microbiology

Peter Robinson  
June  
Edinburgh

### 1988 MB ChB

Clare Livingston  
6–8 June  
Peebles Hydro

### 1988 Agricultural Economics

Harry Elwin  
13 September  
Mavis Hall Park,  
East Lothian  
<http://www.agric88.co.uk>

### 1993 MB ChB

Simon Parke  
13–14 June  
Peebles Hydro

### 1998 BVM&S

Fiona Carragher,  
Jenny Walton,  
and Jo Lampard  
13 September  
Caledonian Hilton Hotel

### 1998 Geography

Peter Impey  
2–3 August  
Edinburgh

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## Special anniversary vet reunion

For all 'Dick Vet' alumni who graduated in a year ending in '3' or '8'  
Saturday 6 September 2008

Open day at Summerhall

Tours and a lecture on the history of the 'Dick Vet'

Evening dinner and ceilidh at South Hall, Pollock Halls

Cost: £45

Dress: informal



# World Service



## 1940s

**Dame Barbara Clayton** MB ChB 1946, PhD 1949 recently became a Dame.

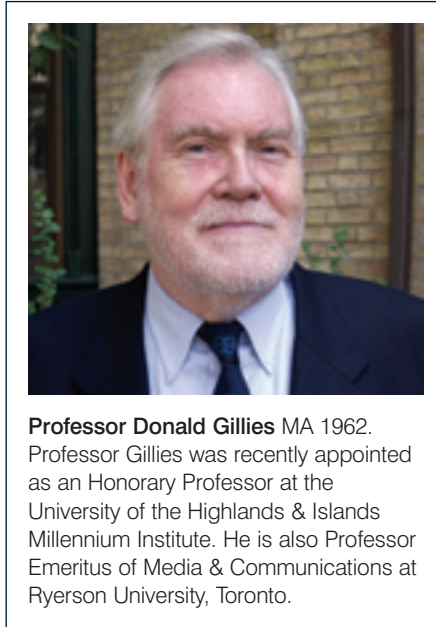
## 1950s

**Professor Emeritus James Kirkpatrick** MB ChB 1950, ChM 1971 recently retired as Professor of Surgery, University of Manitoba, and Head of Surgery, St Boniface General Hospital, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Reverend William Shackleton** MA 1955. Along with fellow Edinburgh graduates George Buchan and Geoff Shaw, Reverend Shackleton has recently written *What Happened To...* about his years in Glasgow's East End parish and as a youth worker.

**Dr Clifford Gulvin** MA 1959, PhD 1969 is now re-married with a young daughter and is living in France, doing consultancy work.

**Professor Emeritus Anthony Wren** MA 1959, DSc 1996. Professor Wren's work on computer scheduling of transport was one of "100 discoveries and developments in UK universities that have changed the world", published in a report by Universities UK in 2006. He was awarded an Honorary DSc (Eng) by the University of Leeds in 2007.



**Professor Donald Gillies** MA 1962. Professor Gillies was recently appointed as an Honorary Professor at the University of the Highlands & Islands Millennium Institute. He is also Professor Emeritus of Media & Communications at Ryerson University, Toronto.

## 1960s

**Associate Professor Alexander Tyrrell** MA 1960. The Edinburgh University Alumni Association of Victoria, of which Professor Tyrrell is President, held a highly successful Robert Burns Night in July 2007 at Queen's College, Melbourne University.

**Mr George Robin Henderson** MA 1962. Mr Henderson's book, *Six Sigma Quality Improvement with MINITAB*, 2006, John Wiley & Sons, has recently published.

**Dr Yola Swindells** PhD 1962. Dr Swindells greatly appreciates the University of Edinburgh alumni reunions held in New Zealand from time to time.

**Mrs Katherine Egan née Winter** PG Cert 1963 is currently Vice Chairperson of the Liberal Democrats.

**Mr Cameron Black** BSc 1966. Mr Black (with some help!) is developing a long-distance walking route from central Edinburgh to St Andrews.

**Mrs Ann Alderson née Wickenden** BArch 1968. Having thought that being made redundant at the end of 2006 signalled retirement, Mrs Alderson has instead found that several freelance jobs have come her way and she continues to work part time, mainly in sustainability and accessibility.

## 1970s

**Reverend David J Chawner** BVM&S 1970. Having spent the past 25 years in local

## ALUMNI PROFILE

**Dr Ilana Kadmon**  
PhD Nursing Studies 1994

**Dr Ilana Kadmon is a nurse and breast cancer specialist at Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. She is also a faculty member at the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing and co-ordinator of the Israeli Breast Cancer Coalition.**

"I was received very warmly by the Department of Nursing Studies when I came to Edinburgh in 1989. The University was a wonderfully stimulating and international environment. I originally thought I would leave with a Master's degree; I very soon realised that I had the makings of a PhD.

"Back in 1989 there was a big storm about breast cancer – women were beginning to talk about. It had become political, and treatment was changing too – mastectomy was not automatic. There was also this totally new concept of the breast care nurse.

**"THE UNIVERSITY WAS A WONDERFULLY STIMULATING AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT."**

"I did my study at Longmore Hospital [in Edinburgh] and looked at how breast care nurses help women make decisions. Back then it was relatively new to do qualitative research, the emphasis had always been on quantitative research, but the Department was very open to that. I interviewed women at length and in depth, and I also interviewed breast care nurses throughout Scotland.

"The strength in my PhD was that it gave me the credibility to get my clinical practice in Israel. In 1996 I developed the first role of breast care nurse in Israel; now there are about 25. Being the first one in the country was very exciting. Slowly the doctors have given credit to this role and now they can't imagine doing without it."



# World Service

church ministry, Reverend Chawner is now working full time with the national sports chaplaincy charity, SCORE, developing and co-ordinating chaplaincy within rugby union across the UK and Ireland. He has been chaplain to London Wasps for the past seven seasons.

**Professor John McKay** PhD 1970 is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada FRSC.

**Ms Rosemary Waites** MA 1970 is planning to retire and paint portraits at home.

**Mr Charles McAteer** MA 1971 was President of the Headteachers' Association of Scotland (2006–2007), which represents Heads and Deputies in the state and independent sectors. They meet with the minister for education and lifelong learning and the main players in COSLA, HMI etc.

**Rt Reverend Robert Gillies** BD 1978 was consecrated Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney in the Scottish Episcopal Church in September 2007.

## 1980s

**Dr Christopher Atton** MA 1981 is completing his fourth book, the textbook *Alternative Journalism*. He has specialised in the study of alternative media, citizen journalism and 'democratic media' and has succeeded in bringing the subject into the mainstream of social and cultural studies.

**Mr Martin C Metcalfe** BSc 1981 is working with Natural England in Kendal. He gained his Yachtmaster qualification in 2007, in between dinghy racing and other activities.

**Dr Gillian Hughes** PhD 1982 recently wrote the biography *James Hogg: A Life*, 2007, Edinburgh University Press, and spoke about it at the 2007 Edinburgh International Book Festival. The third and final volume of her edition of Hogg's letters will follow this year.

**Mrs Gillian H Bonazoli** MA 1983 is working at the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was named Museum Art Educator of the Year for the state of Massachusetts.

**Dr Poonam Bala** PhD 1987. Dr Bala's book, *Medicine and Medical Policies in India: Social and Historical Perspectives*, 2008, was published by Lexington Books.

**Mr Ralf Schonbrunner** 1987 has been living in California for more than 10 years and is Vice President of R&D at AcroMetrix, a small biotech company.

**Miss Sarah-Ann Cullen** OBE LLB 1989, MSc 1999 received an OBE in the 2008 New Year Honours List. She has been the UK's liaison magistrate in Rome for more than five years and has been involved in facilitating improvements in judicial co-operation between Italy and the UK.

**Dr James Giles** PhD 1989 recently had his book, *The Nature of Sexual Desire*, 2008, published by the University Press of America.

## 1990s

**Mr Robin Mukherjee** BCom 1994 is President of International Sales at Southwestern Company, and has twice won

## ALUMNI PROFILE

**Frank Pope**  
BSc Zoology 1996

**An author, journalist and maritime archaeologist, Frank Pope recently wrote *Dragon Sea: A True Tale of Adventure, Archaeology and Greed off the Coast of Vietnam*, 2007, Michael Joseph Ltd, based on the excavation of the *Hoi An* shipwreck. He lives in Kenya with his wife, Saba.**

"Our house is beside a giraffe sanctuary on the outskirts of Nairobi. Three of them come and visit us every now and then, and we also have a family of warthogs living underneath our kitchen. We call it our biodegrading house because they've excavated one corner and the whole room is now on an angle, like it's sinking.

"Living in Kenya feels like a return to the zoology I studied at Edinburgh. I wrote my dissertation on aggression in domestic pigs and how to avoid it. I have fond memories of my time on the University farm in Roslin and love watching the warthogs, even when they're digging away at our foundations!

"Nairobi is so far from a city like Edinburgh. I can't even smell the breweries anymore. I miss that

smell. Edinburgh is so layered, physically and historically; walking around you're always walking on top or below something fascinating. Edinburgh gave me a love of Scotland and its landscapes. After a lot of travelling around the world I still think Scotland's is the most beautiful countryside on the planet. Feeling that way definitely helped in wooing my wife, a die-hard Scot.

"My father is a classicist and I was always interested in historical tales. Every summer while I was at Edinburgh I would volunteer for a few weeks with the Oxford University Maritime Archaeological Research and Excavation Unit.

"I liked the broad base of the Scottish degree. It helped a great deal to experiment and learn a little of social anthropology and psychology along the way.

"When I left Edinburgh I worked for Coral Cay Conservation in Belize for a while, but soon got offered work on a project excavating one of Nelson's flagships – *HMS Agamemnon* – in Uruguay. This led to six years of shipwreck projects around the world. I ended up managing the deepest excavation ever attempted. We found an amazing cache of artworks from a lost Vietnamese civilisation, but had a pretty wild ride trying to bring it up from the middle of the China Sea's



**"LIVING IN KENYA FEELS LIKE A RETURN TO THE ZOOLOGY I STUDIED AT EDINBURGH."**

typhoon zone. I named my book about it after the local fishermen's name for the area: Dragon Sea.

"I'm now a freelance ocean advocate, generating stories about the wonders of this last frontier. I'm also working with some Kenyan-based conservation groups and starting a project to map the coastal resources of Somalia."



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

the company's Excellence Award. He was also a previous Sales Professional of the Year finalist at the UK National Sales Awards.

**Reverend Dr Ephraim Mbabazi** MTh 1997 has just completed a PhD in Health Care Management from Washington International University. He is Director of the charity Peace Education Trust, Uganda.

**Mr Craig Paterson** LLB 1997. Mr Paterson's book, *Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*, 2008, was published by Ashgate.

**Ms Natasha Randall** MA 1997 translated Yergeny Zamyatin's Russian novel *We*, which was published in 2007 by Vintage Classics.

**Mrs Catherine Perch-Nielson née Gordon** MA 1998 and husband Niklous had a baby boy, Thorsten, in July 2007.

**Miss Georgia Kosma** MA 1999 continues to teach English as a foreign language in Greece. She was married in 2001.

## 2000s

**Ms Luciana Martins-Swan** MPhil 2002 moved back to São Paulo, her hometown, with her husband Andrew, and two sons, Cameron, five, and Stuart, two. She has her own practice and has been working with sustainable architecture projects in Brazil.

**Miss Rachel Griffiths** BSc 2003 and Andrew Cameron celebrated the birth of their baby girl, Elois, in April 2007.

**Miss Carys Moseley** MTh 2003, PhD 2007. In addition to tutoring at the University of Edinburgh's School of Divinity, Miss Moseley is working on turning her PhD thesis into a book for publication, and is working as an academic translator and researcher.

**Mr Reinhardt von Hof** BD 2003 is planning to row across the Atlantic.

**Mr Robert Hagen** MA 2005 recently competed in the pan-European Cannonball8000 rally, crossing through eight countries in three days to raise money for the charity Baby Lifeline.

**Mr Gavin Prentice** MSc 2005 recently wrote the e-guide *The Guerilla Guide to Student Life*.

**Dr Michael Turnbull** PhD 2005 recently wrote *Rossllyn Chapel Revealed*, his 20th book, published by Sutton Publishing Ltd in 2007.

**Miss Ann Tonyan** JYA 2006 is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in English at the City University of New York.

*\*World Service contributions may be edited.*

## ALUMNI PROFILE

**Ben Osborne**  
BSc Zoology 1976

**Best known for his images of Antarctica in the book of the BBC series *Life in the Freezer*, 1993, BBC Books, photographer Ben Osbourne works regularly with BBC film crews. He was named the Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007.**



"My time at Edinburgh was good fun. I spent a lot of time in the hills, walking, climbing and enjoying the wild spaces of Scotland. (I also got a degree in Zoology!)"

"After Edinburgh I worked with the Large Animal Research Group in Cambridge, primarily studying red deer ecology on the Isle of Rum. My last scientific assignment was with the British Antarctic Survey on South Georgia from 1982 to 1984.

"When I returned to the UK I decided to focus on photography. Science involved too much logic and discipline for me – my various zoology lecturers would probably agree! However my grounding in science is immensely useful.

**"MY GROUNDING IN SCIENCE IS IMMENSELY USEFUL."**

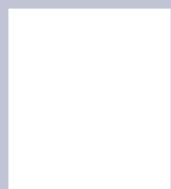
"A lot of my photographs have a purpose and illustrate a scientific point about animal behaviour or how an ecosystem works. Photography is a powerful educational tool as well as being an artistic concept.

"I've been to some amazing places over the last 25 years and had extraordinary experiences. I also lead photographic tours, do workshops and talks and I've worked recently with musicians and poets on multi-media projects."



**Elephant Creation: Overall winner, Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007**

*"This photograph was taken on my second trip for the BBC's Planet Earth series; I was in Botswana's Chobe National Park. It was the dry season and the elephants came into this waterhole. They started splashing to make mud and have mud baths. I was in just the right place."*



The University of Edinburgh's

# Talbot Rice Gallery

## About Talbot Rice Gallery

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

## Friends of Talbot Rice Gallery

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

## Talbot Rice Gallery

The University of Edinburgh  
Old College  
South Bridge  
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

**T:** 0131 650 2210

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

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

## Opening hours

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

## Exhibitions

### ANDREW GRASSIE

1 August–27 September 2008

Talbot Rice Gallery is pleased to present a survey exhibition of recent and new work by Andrew Grassie, as part of the 2008 Edinburgh Art Festival exhibition.

Grassie's practice over the past decade has slowly established him as one of the most individual artists working in Britain today. He creates stunningly detailed photo-realistic paintings of gallery interiors, often displaying temporarily borrowed pieces of other artists' work. He often arranges the work in fictional exhibitions that only exist in the painting, and in doing so diversifies into the role of Curator, albeit a virtual one.

For Grassie's first major solo exhibition in Scotland, Talbot Rice Gallery has brought together a selection of the artist's output from the past 10 years. He will respond to this particular hang with new paintings of the installation itself.

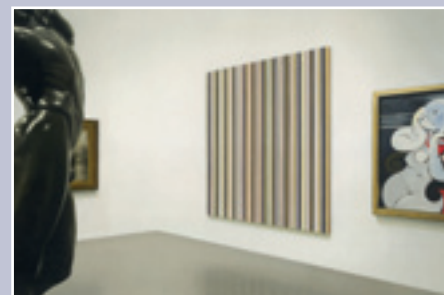
Grassie was born in Edinburgh in 1966 and studied at St Martin's College of Art and the Royal College of Art in London. He lives and works in London. A major new publication will accompany this exhibition.

### LANGLANDS & BELL

25 October–13 December 2008

2004 Turner Prize-nominated duo Ben Langlands and Nikki Bell have been working collaboratively for 30 years. Their most recent work was commissioned for the British Airways Terminal 5 at London's Heathrow Airport. Langlands & Bell explore the complex web of relationships linking people and architecture and the coded systems of circulation and exchange that surround us.

For their first major solo exhibition in Edinburgh, Talbot Rice Gallery will present a complete survey of the artists' film works, shown together for the first time. A publication will accompany the exhibition.



## Image

Andrew Grassie, New Hang: Tate, New Hang 12 2004–5. Courtesy of Maureen Paley, London

# Billet

## The General Council of the University of Edinburgh

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

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



As I write my final end-of-term Report, I am bound to reflect on the many successes and challenges our University has faced, and continues to face, during my period of office. It has certainly not been dull! The successes undoubtedly win, and while we remain actively concerned with issues such as current funding; the possible impact of 'top-up' fees and the forthcoming Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), I am confident that the University retains a central strength and resilience which will allow it continued success in what can be a challenging environment.

We should not underestimate the role of our General Council, in offering advice from a wide base not only to senior managers in the University but to politicians, journalists and other stakeholders outside. We continue to have a very constructive relationship with – and proactive role within – the University, and it is recognised that this becomes increasingly important as the organisation grows and undertakes additional tasks. I have also particularly enjoyed my role as a Trustee of the University Development Trust, and the ability to direct some of the generous donations and bequests – many from members of General Council – to worthwhile projects and scholarships was very satisfying. Even more, of course, is needed, and I hope that this generosity will not only continue but also expand.

As you will see from the Annex to the Billet, our Standing Committees remain active with specific actions and recommendations within their respective fields, and I remain grateful to the Officers, Conveners and members for their hard work, imagination (and sometimes necessary persistence) in achieving our aims.

One of the great privileges of holding the post of Convener of the Business Committee is the opportunity to meet graduates who have gone on to notable achievements in their careers. The most recent example of this was our principal guest and after-Lunch speaker in February 2008 in Old College. Ms Sally Magnusson is a prize-winning journalist and broadcaster, and she was a most engaging speaker on one of her early books, *The Flying Scotsman: The Eric Liddell Story*.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh. To mark this milestone, it is proposed to present a sculpture for one of its new buildings to the University through funds raised by public subscription from members of the General Council. You can find details of how to contribute on page 30 of *Billet*, and we warmly encourage you to mark this historic year in the association between the Council and the University by giving generously.

Plans for the Statutory Meeting on 14 June 2008 in Washington DC are essentially complete. We have an exceptional programme of events around this meeting, and our thanks are due to the Secretary of the General Council, Dr Ann Matheson, for her central role in the organisation of the Meeting on what we plan will be a historic occasion in our 150th year. Full details are available at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk), and you can book online as well as by post. Many bookings

have been made already, and demand is expected to be high – so don't delay!

This weekend is a great collaboration between the General Council, the University, Development & Alumni and our US Alumnus Association. Highlights of the weekend include a half-day conference on 'The Business Response to Climate Change'; conferment of an Honorary Degree on astronaut Neil Armstrong; and a reception in the British Embassy. Our guest speaker after Lunch at Georgetown University will be The Rt Hon. Lord Gill, Lord Justice Clerk; and a reception is generously being hosted by Dr John DeGioia, President of Georgetown University. The University will hold a Gala Dinner in the Library of Congress, with the former Foreign Secretary, The Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, as Guest Speaker. Many other optional tours are planned, including an opportunity (allocated by ballot) for twenty members to visit the White House. Back in Edinburgh, on 14 August 2008, we will again hold a Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing in the Talbot Rice Gallery, following the most enjoyable event in 2007; an order form can be found on the rear inside cover of this magazine.

It has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to serve as Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council, and I offer my particular thanks to my fellow Officers, Dr Ann Matheson and Mr Neil Hynd LVO, for their especial support. As I write this report, the process of nomination and then election of my successor has begun, and I shall have the opportunity in June to wish the winning candidate every success in taking forward our agenda of proactive support and advice. I hope that he or she will find it as enjoyable and fulfilling as I have been fortunate to do.

# Billet

## General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 14 June 2008 10.00am: Georgetown University Conference Hotel, Washington DC

- 9.30am to 10am:** Coffee in the South Lobby, Georgetown University Conference Hotel  
**10am:** General Council Meeting in the Grand Ballroom, Georgetown University Conference Hotel  
**After the meeting:** Lunch in Copley Hall (see pages 31–32 for details)

### AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 9 February 2008 ( <b>PAPER A</b> ) |
| <b>2</b> | Matters arising  |
| <b>3</b> | Report of the Business Committee   |
| <b>4</b> | Dates of future meetings of the General Council  |
| <b>5</b> | Notice of forthcoming Elections  |
| <b>6</b> | Presentation by Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor              |
| <b>7</b> | Any other competent business   |
| <b>8</b> | Adjournment  |

### PAPER A

#### Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 9 February 2008

##### Present:

**Mr Mark Ballard**  
Chairman

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

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

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

##### 73 other members

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

##### 1. Result of the Election of Members of the Business Committee

The Rector announced that the five members of the Business Committee elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2012 were: Professor Ronald E Asher, Mr Michael C Conway, Ms Doreen Davidson, Mrs Mary M McGregor and Mr Bruce L K Rae.

##### 2. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held at Easter Bush, Roslin, on 16 June 2007

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2007 were approved.

##### 3. Matters arising

The Convener reported on matters arising from the previous meeting: the situation of

Tibetans had been discussed, and it was noted that the University took every opportunity to work by persuasion in this regard; video-conferencing had been investigated, but it had been concluded that it would be best not to experiment at the June 2008 Meeting but to investigate means of using new media to promote General Council Meetings; the matter of Business Committee expenses had been considered, and it had been unanimously concluded by the Committee that expenses should not be paid: in an individual case, where there was clear evidence of hardship, expenses might exceptionally be justified; an enquiry about the Holyrood development had received a response; and it was noted that the group convened by Professor Sir Neil MacCormick had submitted a supplementary report on aspects of the withdrawal of an Honorary Degree, and Senate had been informed that this had been received.

---

#### 4. Report of the Business Committee

Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee, presented his report on the activities of the Business Committee since the last Meeting. On behalf of the General Council, he warmly congratulated the Principal on the award of a Knighthood in the New Year's Honours List; and extended the good wishes of the General Council to Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill and Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, and to Professor Jean Manson, who had been awarded an OBE.

The Convener was delighted to report that the University had been rated in the top 25 in the world in a recent *Times Higher Education Supplement* analysis, but he noted that the General Council was also pleased to assist and to advise the University when it faced less positive issues. For example, the General Council Court Assessors and the Academic Standing Committee had been recently engaged with the Officers of the Students' Association and the University on the important matter of student satisfaction.

The Convener referred to the 150th Anniversary of the founding by statute in 1858 of the General Councils of the Ancient Scottish Universities; Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews. The Public Affairs Standing Committee was actively considering ways of marking this occasion, including a possible gift by subscription to the University. Several events were already planned for 2008, with the first of these the Lunch after the Meeting, when the General Council would welcome the well known journalist and broadcaster Sally Magnusson, who would give the after-Lunch address in the Playfair Library Hall. It was planned to hold the usual reception and private viewing of the Festival Exhibition in the Talbot Rice Gallery in August. Prior to this, there would be the excellent programme of events in Washington DC, which was being planned around the next Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 14 June 2008.

The Convener reminded members that the detailed activities of the Standing Committees could be found in the Annex to the Billet, and

he commented that these Committees were the powerhouses of the General Council. He was very grateful to the Conveners and their members for their hard work; and he was particularly grateful to his fellow Officers Mr Neil Hynd, the Vice-Convener, and Dr Ann Matheson, the Secretary, for their support in sharing public duties. He was also very pleased to introduce Mrs Mary Scott, the new Assistant to the Secretary, to her first official Meeting.

The Convener expressed his thanks to Mr Fred Lawson, the outgoing Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee, and to Business Committee members Mr George Allen, Mr William Bowie, Mr Gavin Douglas and Ms Anne Paterson, who had completed their terms of office in 2007. Mr Ewan Jeffrey had been appointed Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee. He welcomed the newly elected General Council Assessors on the University Court, Mr Douglas Connell and Professor Ann Smyth; and new members of the Business Committee Mr Gordon Cairns, Dr Alan Simpson, Dr Frank Stewart and Mrs Hilary Vandore.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

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

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#### 5. Motion

The Chairman invited the Convener to present the Motion. The Convener reported that, in line with Ordinance No. 198, amended by Ordinance No. 205, 'The Constitutional Arrangements for the Working of the University of Edinburgh General Council and its Business Committee' (latest issue, March 2005) made provision for Regulations covering the conduct of General Council Elections. The Business Committee, on the advice of the Constitutional Standing Committee, had agreed to recommend to the General Council that the proposed Regulations, as published on the General Council website, to govern the conduct of

General Council Elections for General Council Assessors to the University Court and members of the Business Committee, be approved. After discussion, the Motion was unanimously approved.

---

#### 6. Dates of future meetings of the General Councils

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 14 June 2008: any motions for discussion at that Meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 26 March 2008. The following statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 14 February 2009. Any motions for discussion at the meeting on 14 February 2009 should be received in the General Council Office by 26 November 2008.

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#### 7. Notice of forthcoming Elections

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

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#### 8. Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University

The Principal said that it was a great pleasure to address the General Council and to present the Annual Report. He noted that in comparison with the Russell Group of Universities, this University had done very well, with a surplus for each of the last five years. This year the surplus after depreciation and before assets had been about £7.5m. However, this was a modest figure, since by comparison with expenditure, the surplus was a bit more than 1.5%. Last year, the University had received a total of £210m in awards, which came mainly from the Research Councils, but also from trusts, and from the European Union, an increase of 50% over the previous year. The University had more than 25,000 students, from diverse areas, with more than a 1,000 from the United States, and a substantial number from

# Billet

Germany, Greece, Ireland, Canada, France, Italy, Malaysia and Taiwan. There were students from a total of 145 different countries, and there had been 49,000 applications for fewer than 4,500 places.

The University was, however, in an uncomfortable position in the National Student Survey on feedback to students in relation to assessment. In absolute numbers, the University was rated about 75% on satisfaction, and the great majority of UK universities were between 75% and 85%. In order to try to tackle this issue, Vice-Principal Simon van Heyningen had been asked to investigate the steps that could be taken to improve the feedback to students after assessment.

During the year, the £5.5m William Rankine Building for Engineering had opened at the King's Buildings; and the £59m Centre for Regenerative Medicine, where the application of stem cell research is to be used to tackle diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's at Little France, had been announced. In March, a Festival of Chinese Academic Success had been held in the State Guesthouse in Beijing, attended by the University's graduates and their families; and the University of Peking, the premier university in China, held a University of Edinburgh Day. In May, following the announcement five months earlier of the Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Alexandria Real Estate announced its intention of investing £350m of private money adjacent to the University and the NHS on the Little France site. The 50th Anniversary of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine awarded by this University took place in June 2007 in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine. In general, commercialisation was going very well, with the University producing about 20 companies a year (the majority student-led). With the venture capital company Braveheart, the University had established a joint fund of about £25m to be invested in commercialisation activities, new companies and protection of intellectual property.

In terms of a number of the University's strengths, it has a world-class Royal (Dick)

School of Veterinary Medicine, world-class genetics and world-class clinical medicine, making it very strong on zootonic diseases, including avian flu. The University was also strong in virtual environments and e-learning, teaching in virtual environments and in computer science. In Medicine, Professor Keith Fox had established a global registry of acute coronary events, which it was hoped would help to combat coronary disease. Professor Shackleton, who was an explorer, a Cambridge professor, and unconnected with this University, had bequeathed his wonderful collection of 800 clarinets and 250 other instruments, with a bequest for their curation. The University was also privileged that Mr Donald MacDonald and his son Euan had established a research group to study motor neurone disease.

The University had conferred a number of Honorary Degrees in the last year: Professor José Barroso, President of the European Commission, had given a really inspiring address in the Assembly Hall; and Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft, had engaged in a very interesting, direct way with eight different research teams during his visit. President Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, had given a wonderful visit to the University's students who work in a convent with the homeless. The University had also conferred an Honorary Degree on Justice Albie Sachs, of the Constitutional Court of South Africa; and, in China, on Professor Zhong Nanshan, President of the Chinese Medical Academy, who identified the SARS virus.

Finally, the Principal noted the University's acquisition of HECToR, which represented a total of £330m worth of super-computing activity based in Midlothian. HECToR had enormous potential for research into issues such as climate change and biomedical research using statistics and patterns of disease worldwide. The Principal then finished his address by thanking the General Council and its Officers for its valued support.

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

## 9. Any other competent business

Ms Linda Hendry enquired whether support for the Confucius Institute by the Chinese Education Ministry might disadvantage Tibetans and their descendants in China. The Principal replied that this was a complex issue but that continued contact and dialogue with Chinese colleagues was the most constructive approach.

Professor Ian Sutherland noted that by taking its Half-Yearly Meetings to other parts of the world, the General Council might disenfranchise members who would be unable to take part. The Convener replied that by taking one in four of its Half-Yearly Meetings out of Edinburgh, the General Council was enfranchising members in other parts of the world.

## 10. Adjournment

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

Dr MaryCatherine Burgess closed the meeting with a benediction.

*The Annex to the Billet contains supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of the presentation, and the Business Committee's report to the meeting on 9 February 2008. General Council members may request it by post from: Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel: 0131 650 2152; Email: [General.Council@ed.ac.uk](mailto:General.Council@ed.ac.uk); or copies may be collected at the location of the Council Meeting from 30 minutes before.*

## Officers

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

### General Council Assessors on the University Court:

A Margaret Tait, BSc	2009
Douglas A Connell, LLB	2010
Ann M Smyth, BSc, PhD, MPhil	2010

### Business Committee:

Convener: Alan M Johnston, MBA, CSci, CChem, FRSC, CBIol, FIBiol	2008
Vice-Convener: Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch	2008

<b>A</b>	Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Frances D Dow, MA, DPhil	2008
<b>F</b>	Convener of Standing Committee on Finance and Services: J Ewan Jeffrey, BSc, CA	2009
<b>P</b>	Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Marjorie D Appleton, BArch (Hons), RIBA, FRIAS	2009
<b>C</b>	Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: Ralph V Parkinson, MA Geography (Hons)	2011

### Members

<b>'A'</b>	denotes a member of the Academic Standing Committee,
<b>'C'</b>	a member of the Constitutional Standing Committee,
<b>'F'</b>	a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Services, and
<b>'P'</b>	a member of the Public Affairs Standing Committee:

	Chancellor's Assessor: The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, MA, LLB, QC, FRSE, FRIAS	ex-officio
<b>P</b>	Charles F Y Lawson, BSc, CA, FSI	2008
<b>C</b>	Patricia J Spark, MA	2008
<b>P</b>	Diana C F Webster, MA, Dip Lib, MCLIP	2008
<b>A</b>	Ian Wotherspoon, MA, MBA, PhD, FSA (Scot), MCMl	2008
<b>P</b>	Alan D G Brown, MB ChB, FRCOG, FRCS Ed	2009
<b>C</b>	Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartS	2009
<b>A</b>	Charles P Swainson, MB ChB, FRCPE, FFPHM	2009
<b>C</b>	Francis R MacT Brewis, MA	2010
<b>A</b>	Helen M Campbell, MA, BA, MNCHM, RSHom, BSc Open	2010
<b>F</b>	T Finlay Marshall, MA, FFA	2010
<b>P</b>	Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD	2010
<b>F</b>	James Murray, BSc, MS, MIEE, MIHT	2010
<b>C</b>	Gordon D Cairns, LLB	2011
<b>A</b>	Alan D Simpson, BSc, PhD	2011
<b>F</b>	Frank I Stewart, MB, ChB	2011
<b>F</b>	Hilary A Vandore, MA, MBA	2011

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary Scott, BA

## 150th Anniversary of the General Council in 2008

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh. To celebrate 150 years of the association between the General Council and the University, it is proposed to present a sculpture for one of its new buildings to the University through funds raised by public subscription from the General Council. Further information about the sculpture will be available at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/150thAnniversarySculpture.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/150thAnniversarySculpture.htm); and members of the General Council are warmly invited to send contributions to:

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

Cheques should be made payable to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust.

### Beginnings

The first meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh took place on Friday 28 October 1859. Originally to be held in the Hall of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the meeting had to be transferred to the larger venue of the Music Hall in George Street as so many members had registered. Members were asked to bring 'their Enrolment lockets and present them at the door'.

At the meeting, Lord Brougham was elected Chancellor, with 656 votes, while the Duke of Buccleuch received 419 votes. Edward Maitland, Solicitor General, was elected General Council Assessor, with 282 votes, with Sir John McNeill receiving 194 votes.



Georgetown University Campus

## General Council Meeting and Alumni Events, Washington DC, USA

Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June 2008

The General Council Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting takes place on Saturday 14 June 2008 in Georgetown University, Washington DC. An exciting programme of associated alumni events has been planned, in association with the University's Development & Alumni.

Full details are available on the General Council ([www.general-council.ed.ac.uk](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk)) and Development & Alumni ([www.edinburghcampaign.org](http://www.edinburghcampaign.org)) websites.

Tickets may be ordered online at [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtondc2008.htm); or by post (request form on the rear inside cover).



The Jefferson Building, Library of Congress

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



## Washington DC Weekend Programme of Events



The White House



The US Capitol, Washington DC

**10am–Noon:** General Council Half-Yearly Meeting  
Grand Ballroom, Georgetown University Conference Hotel

**Noon–12.15pm:** A Group Photograph will be taken in front of Healy Hall, Georgetown University

**12.15pm–12.45pm:** Wine Reception hosted by Dr John J DeGioia, President of Georgetown University, Copley Hall

**12.45pm–2.45pm:** General Council Lunch, Copley Hall

**Guest Speaker:** The Rt Hon. Lord Gill MA LLB PhD FRSE FRSAMD, Lord Justice Clerk

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

**7pm:** The Jefferson Building, Library of Congress. Champagne Reception and Gala Dinner, with an exhibition from the collections of the Library of Congress arranged for University of Edinburgh guests

**Guest Speaker:** The Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Foreign Secretary 1995–97

### Friday 13 June 2008

**Morning:** Optional tours of Capitol Hill and other Washington landmarks. Tour of the White House (20 only). Closing date: 28 May 2008

**1.30pm–5.45pm:** Business Half-Day Conference:  
'The Business Response to Climate Change'  
The Rotunda, The British Embassy, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue  
**Chair:** Dr Craig Mackenzie, University of Edinburgh Business School

**Guest Speakers include:** Jennifer Layke, World Resources Institute; Zoe Riddell, Carbon Disclosure Project USA; Will Oulton, FTSE; and Val Smith, Citigroup (for full details, please consult the website: <http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/washingtonprogramme.htm>)



The British Embassy

**6pm–7.30pm:** Reception  
The Residence  
The British Embassy

An Honorary Degree will be conferred on **Neil Alden Armstrong, US astronaut**, test pilot, university professor and naval aviator, and the first person to set foot on the Moon, on 20 July 1969. The

Laureation will be given by Piers John Sellers, British–American scientist, and NASA astronaut

### Saturday 14 June 2008

**9.30am:** Coffee and Welcome  
South Lobby, Georgetown University Conference Hotel



The National Cathedral

### Sunday 15 June 2008

**Morning:** Events in the National Cathedral  
Free time

**2pm:** Optional tours of Washington DC

Guided visit to the Holocaust Museum led by Professor Donald Bloxham, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh

## The February 2008 General Council Lunch



Before the General Council Lunch on 9 February 2008, left to right: Mr Mark Ballard, Rector; Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; Ms Sally Magnusson, broadcaster and journalist; Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council; and Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee

### Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing 14 August 2008

The General Council will hold a Reception and Exhibition Viewing for General Council members and their friends on Thursday 14 August 2008 in the Talbot Rice Gallery from 5pm–6.30pm. There will be an opportunity to see the Festival 2008 exhibition on the work of the Scottish artist, Andrew Grassie. The Reception will be held in the Gallery's Georgian Room. Tickets may be ordered online ([www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/festivalevent.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/festivalevent.htm)); or by post (request form on rear inside cover).

### The June 2008 General Council Lunch

The General Council is delighted to welcome the Rt Hon. Lord Gill as the Guest Speaker at the Washington DC Lunch on Saturday 14 June 2008.

Lord Gill was appointed Lord Justice Clerk and President of the Second Division of the Inner Court in 2001. He was appointed a Judge in 1994, and was Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission from 1994 to 2001. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.



The Rt Hon. Lord Gill

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

Washington DC: Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June 2008

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

(b) I/We would like to book the following events

	Number	Total Cost
White House tour (no charge) <small>(Please note that there is a limit of two requests for this tour: places will be allocated by ballot)</small>	_____	n/a
'Climate Change' Business Half-Day Conference (£60 per person, including Reception)	_____	_____
Reception (no charge)	_____	n/a
General Council Lunch (£30 per person)	_____	_____
Georgetown University Campus tour (no charge)	_____	n/a
Gala Dinner (£75 per person)	_____	_____
Holocaust Museum (no charge)	_____	n/a
National Cathedral Events (no charge)	_____	n/a
<b>Total</b>	_____	_____

(c) Guest Names	Event(s) Attending	Any Dietary Requirements
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(d) Ordering Tickets

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

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

Please complete and return this form to: Development & Alumni, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, UK. **Closing date for applications: Wednesday 28 May 2008**

## Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing

14 August 2008

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (£10 per person) for the Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing.

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

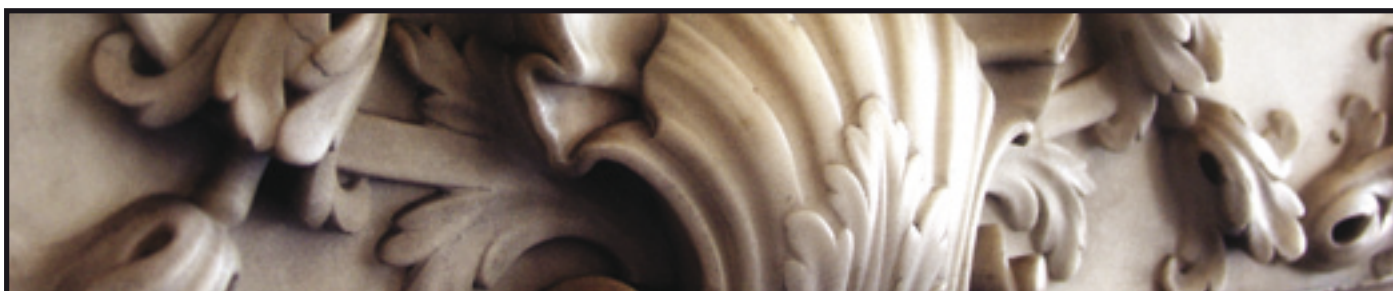
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please complete and return this form to Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, General Council Office, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9-16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1H, UK. **Closing date for applications: Monday 11 August 2008**



## The CLUB WITH AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

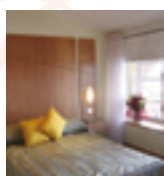


### Royal Over-Seas League

*Special membership  
rates for Edinburgh  
University alumni*



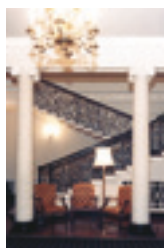
**The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) has a long history of welcoming members from the UK and overseas to its London and Edinburgh clubhouses and providing a network of reciprocal clubs, branches or honorary representatives around the world.**



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



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



Specially discounted joining fees for *Edinburgh University* alumni range from £27 - £62 depending on place of residence. 2008 annual subscriptions range from £78 to £245 and are halved for new members joining after 1 July. The joining fee is waived for those aged 17-25.

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

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

Tel: 020 7408 0214 Fax: 020 7499 6738

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

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