



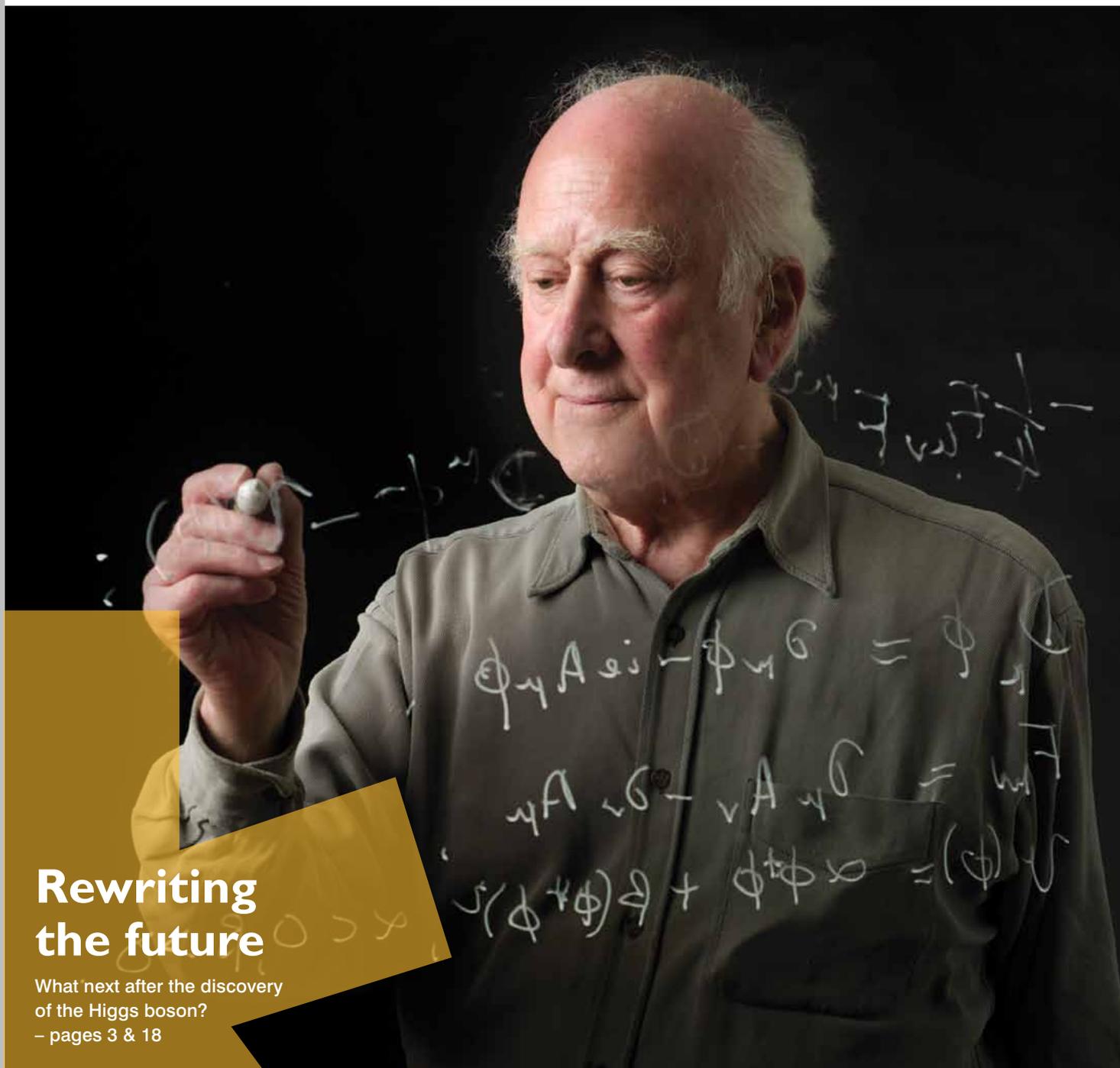
THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

# bulletin



AUTUMN 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE



## Rewriting the future

What next after the discovery of the Higgs boson?  
– pages 3 & 18

### After the gold rush

How Edinburgh can build on the Olympics legacy  
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## bulletin\*

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

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## SUBMISSION DETAILS

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To keep up to date with news, visit Staff News at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff).



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The University of Edinburgh is mindful of the environmental impact of producing this magazine and seeks to minimise resources wherever possible. This magazine has been printed on recycled, uncoated stock, which contains 100 per cent post-consumer waste and is manufactured at a mill that is certified to the environmental management system ISO14001.

## editorial

Welcome to the first edition of *bulletin* in the new academic year, following a sensational summer.

Kicking off the summer period was the Edinburgh College of Art Fashion Show, which was held in the spectacular Playfair Library Hall for the first time. You can revisit all the drama with our photo story on pages 16–17.

In July, CERN announced the hotly anticipated news that scientists had close to 100 per cent confirmation that a Higgs boson had been found. On pages 18–19 Dr Victoria Martin offers insider insight into the search for the elusive particle.

And then came the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which roused the nation's spirits as Team GB's medal tally soared. Our Olympics special on pages 8–9 reflects on the University's London 2012 highlights and provides analysis from Jim Aitken, Director of the Centre for Sport and Exercise, on how Edinburgh can build on the event's legacy.

We also welcomed Kirsty MacDonald, the new Development & Alumni Director, to the University this summer, and on pages 10–11 she talks about the value of strong alumni relations.

Plus, we celebrate all the usual University news and staff achievements, offer health and wellbeing tips and information, and give two *bulletin* readers the chance to win a tour with Gray Line Scotland in our competition on page 26.



Performance costume creations added drama to this year's Edinburgh College of Art Fashion Show. Turn to pages 16–17 for more from the event.

# Higgs inspires new research centre

A new research centre named after Professor Emeritus Peter Higgs is set to ensure the University of Edinburgh is at the forefront of a “golden age” for theoretical physics, following discovery of a particle believed to be the Higgs boson.

The Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics aims to attract international talent and funding to develop research into the fundamental nature of the universe.

“The next five years will be a decisive time for the future of theoretical physics. This will be the golden age for theoretical physics, and we must not miss it,” says Professor Arthur Trew, Head of the School of Physics & Astronomy.

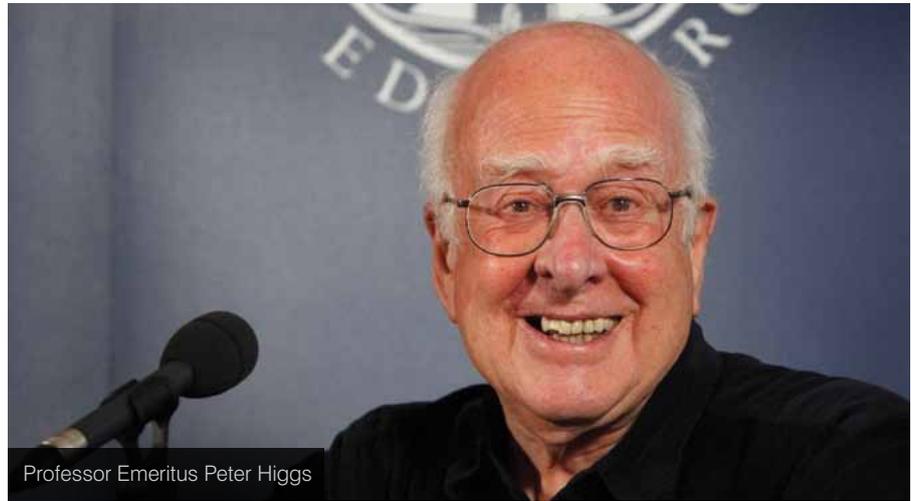
The University has committed an initial £750,000 over three years to the centre, to recruit two new lecturers, fund two PhD studentships, launch a visiting researcher and workshop programme and refurbish space to house the centre at the James Clerk Maxwell Building at King’s Buildings. The University will also establish a Higgs Chair of Theoretical Physics.

“If you bring the brightest minds in the world into one place and let them rip, then you hope that one of them will be the next Peter Higgs who will have the next big idea,” says Professor Richard Kenway, Tait Chair of Mathematical Physics.

Professor Higgs was a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh in 1964 when he put forward a solution to one of physics’ most intriguing puzzles – how the carriers of the weak force, responsible for radioactivity, can be massive when the photon which carries the electromagnetic force is massless.

In a second draft of his breakthrough paper, he added that his theory implied the existence of a new type of particle. This “Higgs boson” became a keystone of the Standard Model of particle physics, and the mechanism by which its elementary particles get their masses.

The long search for the Higgs boson began, and was one of the main reasons for the construction of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) by the European



Professor Emeritus Peter Higgs

“The next five years will be a decisive time for theoretical physics, and we must not miss it.

Professor Arthur Trew

Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva.

Researchers from Edinburgh’s School of Physics & Astronomy have been at the heart of the largest scientific experiment in history, which began when the LHC was “switched on” in 2008. Currently there are 15 Edinburgh researchers working on LHC experiments, including some who were taught by Professor Higgs.

In July this year, LHC researchers announced they had evidence of a new kind of boson – evidence strong enough to declare the discovery of a new particle, consistent with the Higgs boson.

The centre’s first Director will be Professor Richard Ball and its activities will be overseen by an international advisory committee, chaired by Professor Kenway and including Professor Higgs, as well as Professors John Ellis of King’s College London and James Stirling of the University of Cambridge.

🔊 Watch a news conference with Professor Peter Higgs at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/higgs-060712](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/higgs-060712).

📖 Read about Physics researcher Dr Victoria Martin’s role in the search for the Higgs boson on page 18.

## The Higgs boson: a brief history

The Higgs boson is the signature particle for the mechanism that physicists believe confers mass on other elementary particles in the Standard Model.

**August 1964:** Professor Higgs’ paper ‘Broken Symmetries and the Masses of Gauge Bosons’ explains how the symmetry of the electroweak interaction can be broken to give the W and Z bosons their masses.

**1970s–1990s:** several elementary particles are discovered by experiment. The Standard Model gains ever-greater acceptance as experimental results match its predictions.

**1995–2000:** CERN’s Large Electron-Positron Collider searches in vain for a Higgs boson.

**September 2008:** The first proton beams are smashed together by CERN’s LHC.

**July 2012:** both Higgs-hunting experiments at CERN report the discovery of a new particle consistent with the Higgs boson. Fuller analysis of the data increases the certainty that a Higgs boson has been detected.

**Future:** Scientists will continue to explore whether the Higgs boson behaves as predicted, and whether there are several or just one. Its properties will refine or possibly revolutionise physicists’ understanding of matter.

# Personal Tutors system launches

New and returning University students will benefit from a revitalised package of support offered by the University's new Personal Tutor system, which launched at the start of the academic year.

The new initiative strives to offer students an enhanced system of academic and pastoral support to ensure that they are well equipped to get the most out of their time at the University – across all aspects of student activity.

The system formalises two-way contact between tutor and tutee to maximise students' academic and non-academic performance throughout their University career and beyond. Students will be encouraged to take more responsibility for their learning with the benefits that they will become more confident learners, play an active part in the academic community, and meet the challenges and opportunities of university life.

"The new Personal Tutor system gives our students the opportunity to develop valued relationships and share responsibility for managing their own learning," says Professor Ian Pirie, Assistant Principal Learning and



Development. "Both students and staff now have greater opportunities to foster a partnership with the joint aim of providing an outstanding experience for all of our students."

Personal Tutors will take a more proactive approach, working with students individually and in groups, helping them develop the graduate attributes that can contribute to their longer term goals.

"We're really excited about the implementation of Personal Tutors this year. The system has the potential to

answer student concerns and is an opportunity to give students clarity on where they should go for support. In the coming year we're looking forward to working in partnership with the University to get the best from these changes," says Andrew Burnie, EUSA Vice President (Academic Affairs).

The Personal Tutor system, which replaces the Directors of Study system, marks the beginning of the University's three-year phased project to enhance the student experience.

## Research record

The University of Edinburgh has broken its own record for the amount of funding secured for research.

The University was awarded £250 million to fund its research in 2011/12, 37 per cent more than the £183 million received in 2010/11. The amount is a record for a Scottish university, beating the £249 million secured by Edinburgh in 2008/09.

"These record figures again show the strength and depth of the University's research excellence, as we continue to maintain our position as one of the leading research universities in the UK," says Derek Waddell, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Research and Innovation.

## New University Strategic Plan

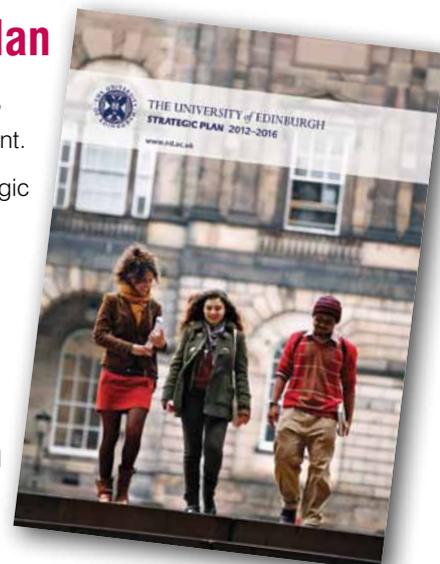
The University has launched its *Strategic Plan 2012–16*, which is available online and in print.

The new *Plan* outlines the University's strategic ambitions for the years ahead and maps out the goals, themes and enablers to represent what is needed to deliver the University's vision. Priorities over the next four years include increasing the University's global impact and enhancing equality and widening participation.

"Thank you to everyone who participated in the *Plan*'s development. The level of engagement and enthusiasm which individuals and groups brought to the consultation process was instrumental in refining and articulating our strategic direction," says Dr Alexis Cornish, Director of Planning and Deputy Secretary.

For a printed copy of the Plan contact Fiona Hunter at [Fiona.Hunter@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Fiona.Hunter@ed.ac.uk) or on 0131 650 2133.

View the *Strategic Plan 2012–16* online at <http://tinyurl.com/SP2012-16>.



# New library enhances KB site

The new Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library at King's Buildings is living up to its billing as "a focus for the intellectual and social life of the campus", having opened its doors this summer.

Built at a cost of £8.75 million, including donations from more than 250 staff and alumni, the library is the new home of the University's book collections in biology, chemistry, engineering, geosciences, mathematics, physics and statistics.

The library, which has a cafe, two-storey atrium and balcony, is part of the wider development of King's Buildings to enhance the study and social space for students.

"Our stunning new facility is proving popular and I anticipate that it will contribute to even more high-quality science and engineering emanating from the University of Edinburgh," says Professor Lesley Yellowlees, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science & Engineering.

"We have long wanted and needed this library centred at the heart of the King's Buildings site – for both staff and students – as a focus for all our endeavours."

The four-storey library was built according to sustainable construction principles and is on target to achieve "excellent" BREEAM certification.

Our stunning new facility is proving popular.

Professor Lesley Yellowlees

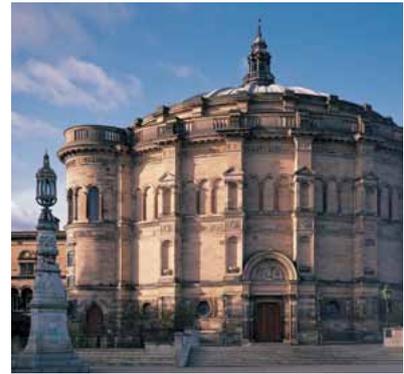
Its design offers varied study space across four floors, ranging from informal and social space at ground level – including an external seating area – to group study facilities, and quiet private study areas on the higher floors.

The library is named in recognition of University of Edinburgh molecular biologists Noreen and Kenneth Murray and their commitment to the advancement of science and engineering, particularly in supporting early-career scientists.

Professor Kenneth Murray's pioneering research led to the first genetically engineered vaccine against Hepatitis B in the early 1980s.

An official opening ceremony, to which staff and alumni donors will be invited, is planned for later in the academic year. A "donor recognition wall" will mark all gifts to the project.

✍️ Would you like your name to appear on the donor wall? Email Rachel Love for more details at [rachel.love@ed.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.love@ed.ac.uk).



## The bulletin question

**Why does McEwan Hall need to be refurbished?**

Angus Currie, Director of Estates & Buildings, explains:

While McEwan Hall continues to be used for graduations, concerts, public lectures and examinations, the building is drastically underused and open for only a handful of days per year. More importantly, the fabric of the hall is now at significant risk and in urgent need of restoration and repair.

Our vision is to restore McEwan Hall building to its former glory while taking the opportunity to open the ceremonial hall for the wider public to enjoy. The main components of the McEwan Hall redevelopment project are to:

- restore the damaged exterior stonework and open up the building to create a new public-facing entrance;
- renovate and develop the existing basement area, including providing additional toilet facilities;
- landscape the Bristo Square area making it more accessible and safe;
- restore the main hall, making it a spectacular multi-functional space;
- create new visitor and breakout facilities in the new welcoming entrance hall.

The McEwan Hall redevelopment project works are planned to progress on a phased basis, with the first phase due to start in October 2012.

### Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library

[www.ed.ac.uk/is/murray-library](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/murray-library)

Construction began: 14 February 2011

Doors opened: 31 July 2012

Cost: £8.75 million

Layout:

**Ground floor** includes cafe, external seating area, bookable group study rooms, self-service issuing, printing, copying

**Floor 1** includes helpdesk, reserve collection, bookable accessible study rooms, quick-access computers and library catalogue computers, self-service issue and return, printing, copying, book collections

**Floor 2** includes bookable group study rooms, quiet study area, balcony, book collections



**Floor 3** includes bookable group study rooms, silent study area, book collections

**Bookable study areas include:** workstations, laptop connectivity, monitors, whiteboards, electronic-capture whiteboards

**Wi-Fi:** throughout

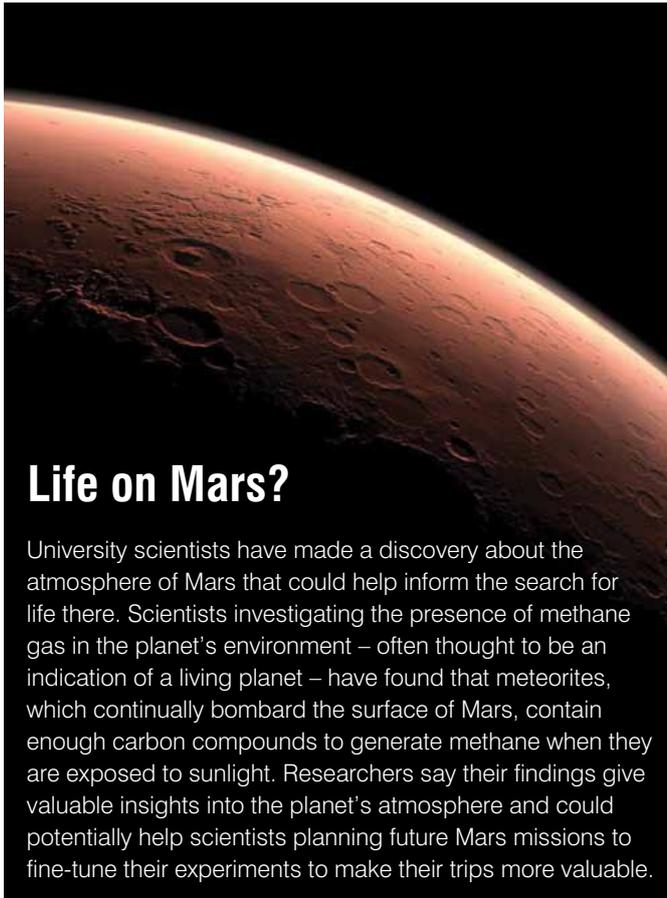
**Opening hours (during semester):**

Monday to Friday 8.30am–11pm;

Saturday 9am–7pm; Sunday 12pm–7pm

# research in focus

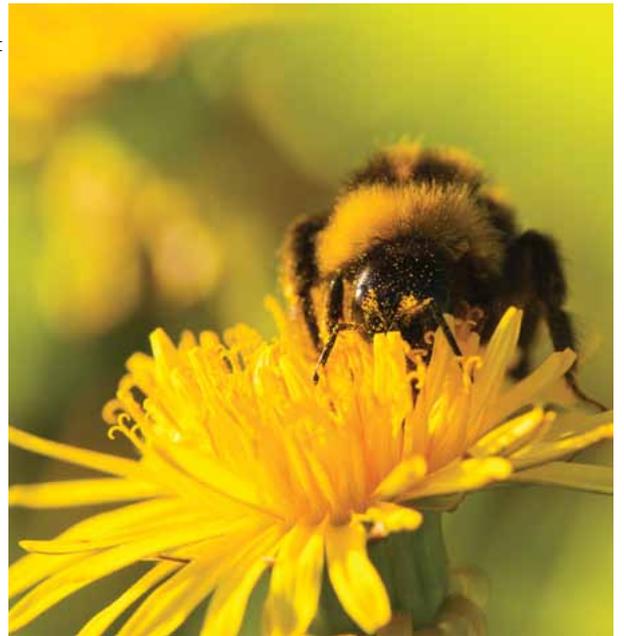
NASA-JPL-Caltech



## Life on Mars?

University scientists have made a discovery about the atmosphere of Mars that could help inform the search for life there. Scientists investigating the presence of methane gas in the planet's environment – often thought to be an indication of a living planet – have found that meteorites, which continually bombard the surface of Mars, contain enough carbon compounds to generate methane when they are exposed to sunlight. Researchers say their findings give valuable insights into the planet's atmosphere and could potentially help scientists planning future Mars missions to fine-tune their experiments to make their trips more valuable.

Andreas Krappweis



## Hope for allergy sufferers

Fresh insights into infection could improve scientists' understanding of allergies and inform new treatments. Edinburgh research into the immune system has shed light on the role of a cell that is involved in the body's response to allergens, such as dust, pollen or pet hair. The cell type – called a dendritic cell – is already known for helping to coordinate the body's response to infection. It does this by enabling the immune system to activate the white blood cells that fight back at infection. "This gives us new insight into the complex workings of the immune system and takes us a valuable step closer to being able to control inflammation of the kind found in allergic reactions," says Dr Andrew MacDonald, MRC Senior Research Fellow at the School of Biological Sciences.



### GRANT FOR BRAIN TRAUMA TRIAL

Professor Peter Andrews of the University's Department of Anaesthesia has been awarded a £2.14 million grant to run a clinical trial to determine the benefits of cooling brain trauma patients between 32°C and 35°C to reduce increased brain pressure. Patients who have experienced a serious head injury will be randomised to standard care or standard care and cooling between 32°C and 35°C within 10 days of sustaining the injury to help reduce swelling of the brain, which can cause death or disability. Professor Andrews' study will investigate whether cooling these patients to below normal temperatures (therapeutic hypothermia) can significantly reduce death and disability.

### AWARD SUPPORTS TB STUDY

Head of Anthropology Dr Ian Harper has received a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award in Medical Humanities for his project investigating the technologies, ethics and programmes involved in tuberculosis (TB) control. The five-year project will include research in India, Papua New Guinea and South Africa. Dr Harper is a trained medical practitioner. He managed a TB control project in Nepal for three and a half years, and has also worked with NGOs throughout India, supporting community health projects.

### CLINICAL PARTNERSHIP FORMED

Edinburgh researchers are to work with Belgian clinical stage biotech company Galapagos NV to develop cancer therapies, thanks to a two-year partnership agreement facilitated by Edinburgh BioQuarter. A team from the Edinburgh Cancer Research UK Centre will offer Galapagos access to a wide range of advanced cancer models and technology platforms that provide critical insights into the mechanism of action of particular compounds. This information will help inform the selection of compounds for clinical development and for improving the effectiveness of those compounds in combating various forms of cancer in patients.

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

## A snapshot of Christian mission

The School of Divinity's Centre for the Study of World Christianity has been working with the University of Southern California International Mission Photography Archive (IMPA) to catalogue and digitise a selection of glass lantern slides and photographs on the history of Christian mission around the world. The images (right) are taken from slide collections created by the Church of Scotland that were used in magic lantern shows throughout the country to raise support and funds for their missionary work in Africa and the Caribbean. They date from the mid-19th century to the early 1900s. Plans are in place to make the collection available online, creating an invaluable resource for students and scholars alike.

International Mission Photography Archive:  
<http://digitalibrary.usc.edu/impa>



## In the spotlight

**bulletin** highlights some of the University research milestones that have been hitting the headlines.

### REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

Dr Tom Russ' findings that psychological distress can lower life expectancy delivered worldwide headlines, with media from India to Indonesia and New York to New Zealand snapping up the story. The Dementia Research Centre study picked up significant broadcast and print media coverage on home soil too, generating news and discussion on a range of BBC radio and television programmes, as well as column inches in numerous newspapers.

### THE RIGHT BLEND

A brief revival of improved summer weather prompted media interest in University supercomputer HECTOR's ability to analyse the process of mixing ingredients during the ice cream-making process. The *Daily Mail*, *Sun*, *Metro*, *China Daily* and Spain's *Heladaria* were among the news publications keen to share the secrets of tastier ice cream. The simulation of ice cream production was part of a wider research project to study soft matter.

### PROSTATE CANCER GENE

University research, which has led to the identification of a gene that could be instrumental in the growth of prostate cancer tumours, has captured UK-wide media interest. National press, including the *Sunday Times*, *Times*, *Daily Record* and *Herald*, covered the story, as did numerous regional titles such as the *Northern Echo*, *Yorkshire Post*, *Belfast News*, *Sunday Mercury* and *Edinburgh Evening News*.

### SUPERHERO SENSES

Findings from research carried out by the University of Edinburgh and New York University, which reveal that just like fictional superhero Spiderman, ordinary humans possess an intuitive response to danger, made an international news splash. The psychology research was covered by the *Daily Express*, *Daily Star*, *Daily Mail*, *Metro*, BBC Radio Scotland and Asian News International, among other news organisations.

## What I'm discovering...



*Institute for Astronomy physicist and Royal Society University Research Fellow* **Dr Thomas Kitching** is investigating dark matter and dark energy, and is a joint cosmology working group lead on the European Space Agency's Euclid satellite project.

"More than 1,000 scientists from across the world are in the Euclid Consortium and the Euclid satellite will be launched in 2019. Like the Hubble Space Telescope, it will make very high-resolution images of the sky, but over a much larger area. The largest Hubble images cover only, approximately, a few tenths of one per cent of the sky. Euclid will image 75 per cent of it, capturing the images of 1.5 billion galaxies over 75 per cent of the age of the universe. It will create a map of the universe, allowing us to trace how dark matter is spread between the galaxies.

"Using this massive data set we hope to use gravitational lensing to determine what dark energy is once and for all, and we hope to understand the universe. Euclid will tell us what the ultimate fate of the cosmos will be: will it end in a Big Crunch, a Big Rip, or will it expand forever ending as a bath of radiation? It will also allow us to test gravity on cosmological scales – Einstein's theory of gravity has been tested but never on galactic or extragalactic scales.

"By creating software tools to sift through, analyse and extract information from this unprecedented amount of data, we will develop a 'big data' infrastructure that we hope will be useful to many other disciplines. Everything from your mobile phone to your bank account, to your pictures of friends online are all data, and developing ways of handling this massive amount of data will become increasingly important. Euclid is an experiment that will help us navigate the information age."

To find out more about this project, email [tom.kitching@gmail.com](mailto:tom.kitching@gmail.com).

# After the gold rush

As Olympic fever fades, Jim Aitken, the University's Director of the Centre for Sport and Exercise, reveals how Edinburgh can help inspire the next generation of sporting stars.



### Did you know?

Edinburgh was the top performing UK university at the London 2012 Olympics, based on medals won by our representatives.

Source: podium.ac.uk

“Higher education makes a massive contribution to sport in this country. If the higher and further education sector was an Olympics team it would have finished top five in the medals table, so the sector is a key vehicle for developing and sustaining elite sport talent in the UK. I think we can also turn people on to sport, either in a competitive sense or as a volunteer.

“For me, the challenge is to build on the platform of London 2012 and ensure as many staff and students as possible have the opportunity to get involved in future Games and that this university can host world-class sports camps for future Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams.

“We also want any student – a novice or someone already participating in a sports activity – to be able to join a sports club and get an inspiring experience from that club. Some of the uplifting stories coming from the Games were people who took up the sport because they were inspired by the Beijing Games. One of the Team GB rowers hadn't rowed before 2008, took up the sport, showed promise and then fastracked into Team GB for 2012, so it's possible, you can start late.

“We represent 24 of the 26 Olympic sports covered in clubs. We need to

make sure that our sports clubs are prepared and ready to receive an increased interest in a number of sports, particularly the Olympic ones, and ensure everyone receives a high-quality experience. We have a responsibility to enable people to develop at a level commensurate with their talent and commitment.

“In looking after our top-end athletes, those who have aspirations to participate in an Olympics, we have the strongest scholarship programme for sport in the UK. That will now be augmented by the Eric Liddell High Performance Sports Scholarships [launched this summer], giving us the additional resources to provide an environment where you can combine international sport preparation with world-class study.

“We've got some remarkable new students coming next year. For example, we're delighted that Gemma Gibbons, Olympic silver medallist in Judo, will be

coming to Edinburgh to do the PGDE in 2014, and we've got two of the UK's best canoeists joining us. But clearly, the next milestone for us will be Glasgow 2014 and trying to match the remarkable Edinburgh participation in Delhi. There were 37 University of Edinburgh students, graduates and staff who were part of Team Scotland in Delhi. Can we match that in Glasgow? Early signals suggest that we can.”



## Golden moments

*London 2012 produced countless memorable moments and here we reflect on some of the highlights of the University's Olympic journey.*

**10–22 June:** The Centre for Sports & Exercise hosts both men's and women's Team GB volleyball pre-Olympics training camps.

**14 June:** The Olympic Torch travels through Edinburgh and is carried by Lesley Forrest, Senior Administrative Assistant in Finance and organ donation ambassador, and student Lisa McKenzie, captain of the University's Women's Fencing Team.



## Sporting honours

Britain's most successful female rower Katherine Grainger, had the opportunity to compare notes with football hero Pelé at a University reception honouring sporting success, held at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The former Brazilian striker was awarded an honorary degree for his contribution to humanitarian and environmental causes, as well as his sporting achievements, which includes winning the World Cup three times with Brazil.

### Did you know?

60 per cent of Team GB medallists are in, or have graduated from, the further and higher education sector. London 2012 Chief Executive Paul Deighton praised the "integral role" played by the UK's education sector in making the Games a success.

**18 June:** As Olympics excitement builds, the University launches the Eric Liddell High Performance Sports Scholarships with the iconic athlete's oldest daughter Patricia Russell. Backed by Sir Chris Hoy and Katherine Grainger, these scholarships will support student athletes to develop to an elite standard.

**18–24 July:** The full Team GB Olympic swim team, including Rebecca Adlington and Michael Jamieson, train at the Pleasance. A farewell dinner is held for them at the Playfair Library Hall.

**1 August:** University of Edinburgh swim club member Michael Jamieson wins a silver medal in the 200m breaststroke.

**3 August:** Alumnus Katherine Grainger wins her first Olympic gold medal in the double sculls with Anna Watkins, adding to her previous three silvers and making her Britain's most successful female rower.

**7 August:** Alumnus Sir Chris Hoy claims his sixth Olympic gold medal to become Britain's most successful Olympian of all time.

**9 August:** The University celebrates its long history of sporting achievement with a special event at London's Victoria & Albert Museum, where footballing legend Pelé is awarded an honorary degree.

## On the road

### Sarah Morton,

Co-Director (Knowledge Exchange) of the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships and Knowledge Exchange Specialist at the Scottish School for Public Health Research, shares her memories of volunteering at the London Olympics as a marshal for the cycling road races and time trial.



### What were your duties at the Games?

During the road race, I had to wave a hazard flag on a tight bend in a lane in Surrey to let the cyclists know there was a hazard. For the time trials I had to make sure the road was clear for the cyclists coming past at 90-second intervals. Generally, I chatted to the public, kept the route safe for everyone, and helped people cross the road.

### What prior experience did you have?

I had marshalled triathlons before, so I knew something about a race marshal's duties. I'm also a keen cyclist and Tour de France fan so I knew about the sport.

### What were some of the best things about taking part?

It was exciting to be part of the whole Olympics buzz. As soon as I put on my uniform it was a bit like being part of a benevolent police force; volunteers were everywhere on the streets and on public transport. People smiled at us, started conversations with us or asked us for information.

### Did you learn any new skills?

Not really but I had lots of new experiences – like picking up my uniform from a massive depot, getting a train to Surrey with hundreds of similarly dressed volunteers, seeing the Belarusian cyclist crash at my feet, feeling the breeze created by the peloton [main pack of cyclists] as they sped past and being close enough to touch Bradley Wiggins!

### What challenges did you have to face?

The shifts were long and there were some organisational challenges. The cycling road race is a huge logistical nightmare – closing roads, putting up barriers and getting 2,000 volunteers along the route to ensure safety. It didn't always go smoothly.

### Would you do it again or recommend it to a friend?

Yes. I will always feel I was part of London 2012 and I have some brilliant memories.

# Making things happen

From the famous Glyndebourne opera house to the University of Oxford's Wadham College, Development & Alumni's new Director **Kirsty MacDonald** has been raising money for prestigious organisations for more than 20 years. She talked to *bulletin* about returning to her Scottish roots and helping people to change the world.

### Firstly, how are you settling in to your new role and home?

I'm really enjoying it, everyone's been really welcoming and the team is great.

Although I grew up in Canada, I was born in the UK and my parents are in the Highlands, so I was very drawn to moving to Scotland. The Scottish diaspora in Toronto, where I grew up, was very active so I grew up with very strong Scottish–Celtic connections and a lot of Scottish culture, but this is my first time living in Scotland.

### What attracted you to the position at the University of Edinburgh?

I'd been in fundraising for more than 20 years and I've done a lot in the arts, but several years ago I moved into higher education and I've really enjoyed that, so the University of Edinburgh job was a great opportunity for me to take on a bigger campaign and a bigger team.

### What is it about higher education fundraising that interests you?

What I love about higher education is that it makes a difference; it's helping people to do the experiments and write the books that can change the world. People are literally changing the world here.

### Why is the D&A department essential to a university?

In the past 10 to 15 years, there's been a move towards professional fundraising in higher education and Edinburgh has been running a very professional operation to raise significant funds.

The other important strand to our work is alumni relations and making sure that alumni feel part of the family. We want all alumni to have access to the University, whether they are big donors, small donors or not donors at all.

### How do you decide which projects need fundraising support?

We're very much guided by the University's Strategic Plan, so we try not to be led by donors saying "here's some money for something I'd like the University to do". Sometimes that can generate interesting ideas, which can be pursued, but ultimately we are trying to find funding for projects that have been identified as priorities. We're in the business of trying to make things happen that help the University raise its standing internationally.

People are literally changing the world here.

### What could University staff do to support your work?

We're developing lifelong relationships with our students and anything staff can do to nurture that relationship from the minute students arrive is of great long-term benefit to the University. Good feelings pay dividends in the future.

### So alumni relations start from the minute a potential student makes contact?

Exactly. I've heard fantastic things about the ways our International Office and student recruitment team have interacted with potential students. Not all those people will come here or graduate, but those first impressions of the University can be long lasting.

### Apart from donating money, what other ways can alumni contribute?

It's really important that we help to develop a network of alumni because they can help open doors for students. We are keen to find ways in which alumni can give something back in terms of their time and expertise. This could be in the form of mentoring, providing internships or even jobs. Alumni are also important advocates for the University and the quality of its research and teaching.

### Does higher education fundraising face any particular challenges at the moment?

We are definitely affected by the economic climate, and when companies or trusts,

or even individuals are generating less money themselves, they then have less money to give away. Our challenge is to show, beyond a doubt, that when money is given to the University it's used wisely and it generates an impact, so we spend a lot of our time on stewardship activities.

In light of the Woolf report [Lord Woolf's 2011 inquiry into the London School of Economics's links with Libya], we're very mindful that we have to pay close scrutiny over where the money comes from so that we don't expose ourselves to risk.

### What common misconceptions about higher education fundraising have you encountered throughout your career?

Often people feel we spend a lot of money raising money and the reality is we don't. Depending on the organisation, probably about 15 to 20 per cent of funds raised are spent on fundraising, which is actually less than a lot of charities.

The other misconception is that you just hire a fundraiser who will go off and do it. That's just not realistic, you can't do it on your own, it's a team sport, and although fundraising generates more work for everybody, it pays off in the long run.

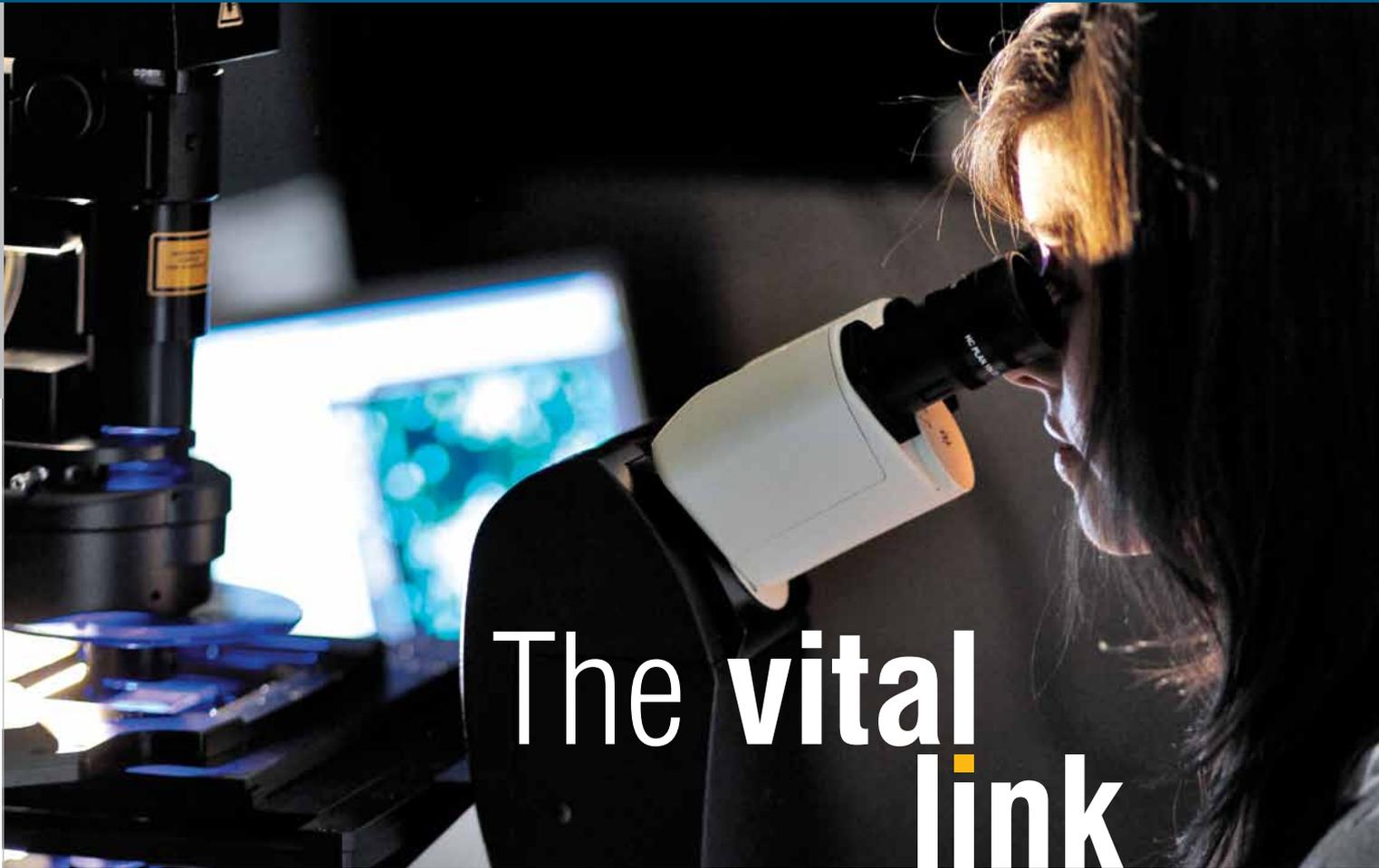
### It's early days, but what are your ambitions for the University's Development & Alumni department?

We're already one of the most successful higher education fundraising teams in Europe, so I'd like to keep us in the top five universities in terms of the scale of our ambition and the success of our campaigns.

I also don't want it to sound like it's just about the money; it's just as important, if not more important, that we continue to grow a group of passionate and dedicated supporters of the University. ✦

## A fundraising milestone

Development & Alumni is to announce in November the total raised by the University of Edinburgh Campaign. The largest fundraising project of its kind in Scotland, the University of Edinburgh Campaign launched in 2006 with a target of £350 million. Key campaign projects included the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, a new teaching facility for the Dick Vet and the redevelopment of the University's Main Library. Scholarships and bursaries were also a priority. Plans for an extension of the Campaign will be revealed in early 2013.



# The vital link

**Edinburgh BioQuarter hopes to position Edinburgh as one of Europe's premier sites for life sciences research by helping biomedical innovations created at the University make a difference. Tara Womersley reports.**

From discovering the anaesthetic properties of chloroform to cloning the first mammal from an adult cell, the University of Edinburgh has a long pioneering history in medical science. Continuing this tradition, Edinburgh BioQuarter is helping scientists translate findings made at the laboratory bench into tangible benefits for patient care.

Edinburgh BioQuarter's location at Little France in the south of Edinburgh is key. Here, University research centres – such as the Queen's Medical Research Institute and the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine – are sited alongside the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, ensuring closer collaboration between scientists and clinicians.

"The way that research is carried out has completely changed over the past few decades," says Mike Capaldi, Edinburgh BioQuarter's Commercialisation Director.

"In the past, academic research was very much separate to pharmaceutical research. 'Big pharma' felt it could do everything alone and academics were mistrusting of industry. But now things have changed, and the benefits of academics working alongside clinical

industrialists are central to the process of building innovative product pipelines."

The Edinburgh BioQuarter initiative involves the University, NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise and life sciences property developer Alexandria Real Estates. It has a 13-strong commercialisation team, with 150 years of industry and pharmaceutical experience between them, behind it. The team envisages that the wide-ranging expertise at Little France will attract not only industry but also venture capitalists.

"The experience of the team here means that we understand how to translate medical innovations into commercial products, whether this involves developing a product through licensing, setting up spin-out companies or collaborating with industry," explains Mr Capaldi.

Through projects such as the annual Innovation competition, the Director's Innovation Forum and commercialisation seminars, Edinburgh BioQuarter offers researchers a number of outlets to develop entrepreneurial thinking. The experienced commercialisation team is also on hand to support business

creation, from initial concept stage through to providing lab or office space for fledgling spin-outs.

The short-term goal of Edinburgh BioQuarter is to promote commercialisation of innovative research, either via company formation or by increased collaboration with industry; the medium-term aim is to strengthen the ecosystem by encouraging further companies to relocate to BioQuarter premises, while longer term, the focus is to turn BioQuarter into one of the most pre-eminent European biomedical clusters.

Such a strategy fits in with the Scottish Government's intention to double the contribution made by life sciences to the Scottish economy from £3 billion in 2012 to £6 billion by 2020. Indeed, more than 70 per cent of life science organisations based in Scotland are directly focused on healthcare, drug discovery and development.

Developments this year at Edinburgh BioQuarter include the official openings of the University's £54 million Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Nine, a £24 million biocubator facility, which is funded by Scottish Enterprise and the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, funded by the University, Scottish Enterprise, the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the British Heart Foundation, provides accommodation for up to 250 stem cell scientists and has the capability to manufacture stem cell lines that could be used for patient therapies.

The benefits of academics working alongside clinical industrialists are central to the process of building innovative product pipelines.

Mike Capaldi,  
Edinburgh BioQuarter's Commercialisation Director

Nine, sited close to the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, provides 85,000 square feet of laboratory and office space for both established biotechnology companies and start-up ventures including Fios Genomics, a spin-out from the University's Division of Pathway Medicine.

"We crunch large volumes of genomic data to provide analysis services to drug companies, research institutes and academics," says Fios Genomics Commercial Director, Dr Sarah Lynagh. "Our biologists tell you what the data means, our statisticians tell you how important it all is, while our bioinformaticians use their programming skills in algorithm development to analyse the data."

"At the moment we are working on a clinical trial to help understand, from a genomic point of view, the mechanisms behind how a drug works and whether the drug poses potential side effects through long-term use. This analysis results in valuable additional information being available to the client at an earlier stage in the development process."

This mixture of biologists, statisticians and bioinformaticians at Fios Genomics is an example of how cross fertilisation between different disciplines can aid medical innovation. The expertise from across the University allows new projects to be formed, which may never have come to fruition, and this innovative and collaborative approach is welcomed at Edinburgh BioQuarter and beyond.

Jim McFarlane, Managing Director of Operations at Scottish Enterprise, says: "Scotland has a distinguished history in developing breakthroughs in medical science and we believe that, collectively, the concentration of world-class research and facilities at Edinburgh BioQuarter will provide a breeding ground conducive to new medical discoveries that will not only continue that tradition for centuries to come but also have a significant impact on the Scottish economy."

## Uncovering new talent

Edinburgh BioQuarter launched its annual Innovation competition in 2011 to discover business ideas that will ultimately deliver new medical therapies, drugs and diagnostic devices. The competition is open to University of Edinburgh staff and postgraduate students and NHS Lothian employees.

In the two years since the competition was first launched, BioQuarter has received around 100 entries. This year's first prize of £10,000 went to Tissuestik, with a concept to develop a medical device to reduce the risk of cross-contamination between human tissue samples in laboratories.

Mike Millar and Sheila MacPherson from the University's MRC Centre for Reproductive Health developed the idea behind Tissuestik after they identified a strong need to make tissue sampling easier and reduce contamination risk.

Mr Millar says: "Cross-contamination of samples can result in patients being at risk of misdiagnosis and in some cases unnecessary surgery. Human tissue samples vary widely in their size and shape, and current methods of handling put samples at risk of cross-contamination from other samples. For us it's now a challenge to move from what is an academic research environment into a business environment, because that's a completely new environment for both of us."

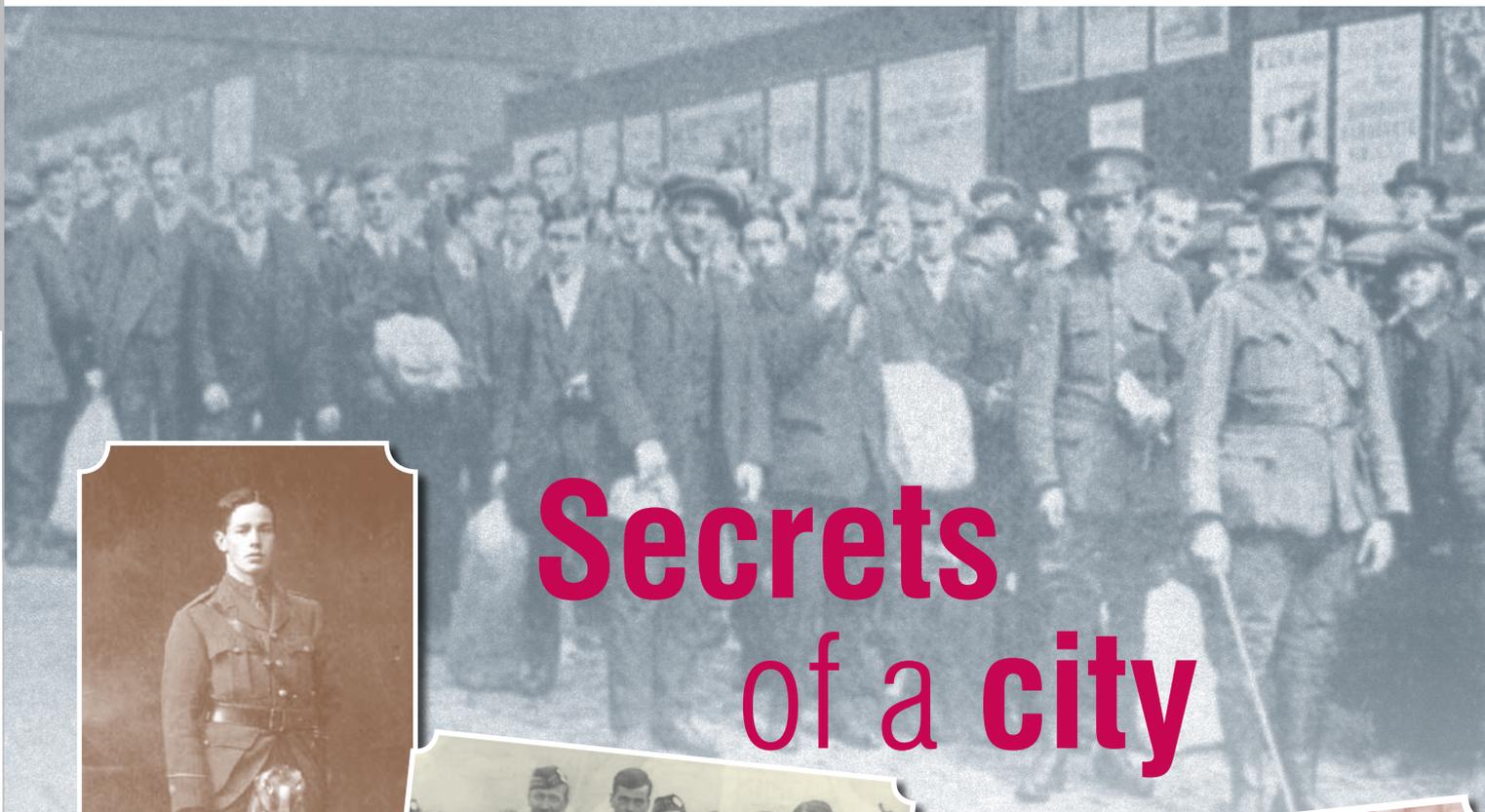
BioQuarter's Innovation competition has given its inaugural winners, Pharmatics, the boost to develop and market the company, which creates software to improve the efficiency of drug discovery and testing.

Dr Felix Agakov, Pharmatics Chief Executive, says: "The competition was a good motivation to develop the company as well as seek collaboration with companies and research centres in similar areas. We are at final negotiations for two European grants, involving small and medium enterprises, to develop statistical software that can find useful structure in biological and medical data and be applied to personalised medicine."

[www.bqinnovation.com](http://www.bqinnovation.com)



Tissuestik's founders Mike Millar and Sheila MacPherson



# Secrets of a city



**The story of Edinburgh’s role in the First World War is being retold, thanks to a fascinating social research project led by Dr Yvonne McEwen. Chris Small investigates.**

Last year Yvonne McEwen was handed one of the most complete and devastatingly poignant records of a soldier’s war service she had ever seen. “It included this man’s dog tags, his letters to his parents, his wife and his daughter when he first went out – and the bullet that killed him,” she says.

Dr McEwen, Honorary Fellow at the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, is the Project Director of Edinburgh’s War, a social history project which documents in passionate and respectful detail the role of the city and its people between 1914 and 1918. Alongside expert colleagues she runs

local roadshows at which members of the public can share family documents and photographs from the war years. Since the project began, events have been held in every major public library in Edinburgh and the Lothians, with stories gathered on a virtual archive.

The First World War may be fading from living memory but it still evokes a powerful emotional response among families it affected, Dr McEwen says. “People come with photographs and say, ‘I think this is my grandfather or great grandfather – can you tell me anything about him?’ We have someone who’s an expert on insignia, so we’re usually able to identify



Clockwise from right: an ambulance donated by Fettes College and Loretto School; convalescing soldiers at Hopetoun House Red Cross War Hospital; 16th Royal Scots soldiers in France with a football sent by Heart of Midlothian Football Club; Captain George Hugh Freeland Bartholomew, Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, who died on 2 October 1917, aged 21; military recruitment in Edinburgh.



There's nothing like people feeling so strongly about their communities that they want to research what went on.

the uniform. We then start building up the picture and can give people more details. We might say 'yes he served and not only did he serve, he won a military medal'. It's amazing what that does for people."

Dr McEwen believes historians have had a tendency to neglect Scotland's role in the conflict. Edinburgh's War is partly intended as a corrective to that perceived oversight. "The War's always been about Britain," she says. "But now people are taking ownership of their history. There's nothing like people feeling so strongly about their communities that they want to get out there and research what went on. It's a treat to be in that environment."

The seeds of the project lie in a 2009 request from Edinburgh's Central Library. "The University of Oxford was touring Britain collecting First World War poems," Dr McEwen says, "and the library asked if we had a historian who could help them with their submission, so I went along."

Dr McEwen was surprised at the volume of artefacts, letters and photographs she found about the war. "Afterwards I said to my colleague in Library Services, 'why are we giving our memorabilia to Oxford? Why are we not keeping it in our country and doing our own project?' So we began to plan how we could extend that idea into the community."

With backing from the University's Development Fund, the project attracted volunteer researchers, enthusiastic partner organisations – and intense local interest. "There was a tremendous amount of goodwill," Dr McEwen says. "Schools really embraced the project and opened up their war archives. Banks and insurance companies did the same."

Colourful and surprising stories emerged. The team uncovered a James Gillespie's High School teacher's sideline in cookery instruction for soldiers, and a once top-secret document revealed that, when not tying reef knots or pitching tents, local Girl Guides worked for MI5.

One of Dr McEwen's favourite stories focuses on a December 1916 visit to Edinburgh by troops from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which included Canadian and Native American soldiers. The battalion marched along Princes Street, led by Chief Clear Sky in full native dress, before attending a civic reception. There, the Chief stunned his audience by delivered a rich lecture on Scottish history. The soldiers, drawn to Scotland because of their shared ancestry, went on to raise money for the Scottish Red Cross, and their contribution is

memorialised today in the unusual names of two of the war veterans' cottages: Mohawk and Tomahawk.

Other discoveries point to the progressive character of the city, particularly in its response to the return of a generation of psychologically brutalised men at the end of the war. Between 1917 and 1923, Kingston House in Liberton was the site of a dedicated hospital for the treatment of shell shock – the first of its kind in the UK. During the same period, Dr McEwen found, the University was planning to establish its first Chair of the Study of Shell Shock. But what happened next is a mystery. "Whether the hospital closed because the Ministry of Pensions felt they didn't want to keep it any more or the men were being absorbed back into the community, we have no idea," she says. "We also don't know what became of the University's plans [for the Chair]. We really need to know more about both. Maybe readers of *bulletin* can help us?"

Edinburgh's War has proved unequivocally the value of taking social research into the heart of the local community, and its success is leading to the project's expansion. In October a revamped website will accompany the launch of Scotland's War, which will examine the experience of the country as a whole, and, in partnership with Edinburgh City Libraries, a First World War history hub – the first of its kind in the UK – will also be launched. Dr McEwen's team is also devising an awards scheme to give schools and communities the chance to research their own war stories.

"This is probably one of the largest public engagement projects this University has ever been involved in," she says. "It's something we should be very proud of." ✚

Do you have a story to share?  
Email [edwar@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edwar@ed.ac.uk) or visit  
[www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk).

# A design classic



The University's iconic Playfair Library Hall has served many purposes throughout its illustrious history but never before has it hosted one of the most fashionable events on Edinburgh's cultural calendar. Its neo-classical interior was transformed into an electrifying space to stage the annual Edinburgh College of Art Fashion Show, showcasing the latest creations from final-year Fashion, Performance Costume and Textiles students.

This year's Fashion Show attracted an audience of almost 2,500 people, including more than 400 schoolchildren from Edinburgh and the central belt, during its three-day run. More than 150 students, supported by a committed team of staff, models and hair and make-up artists, were involved in the event, taking part in all aspects of show production, from backstage support to front-of-house duties.

The fourth-year fashion students also found success at Graduate Fashion Week in London, winning two individual prizes and scooping the Best Stand Award for the second year running. Riona Horrox won the Best Menswear Collection and Emma Hardstaff was awarded the David Band Textiles Award. Edinburgh College of Art is the only Scottish fashion department to be invited to show on the catwalk at this prestigious event, which welcomes industry insiders and fashion journalists from around the world.

Planning for next year's events is already under way.

This page, clockwise from top left: sport-inspired fashion from Katarzyna Krzywania; Raj Mistry's menswear collection; Ainslie Hogg's fashion creations sparkle on the catwalk.





This page, clockwise from top left: performance costume collections add some drama; backstage preparations; the finishing touches; a model strikes a pose; garments are carefully attended to.



# Piecing it together

**In July this year, scientists at CERN announced results that provided the strongest indication yet that the Higgs boson exists. Physicist Dr Victoria Martin reflects on Edinburgh's role in a search that has produced one of the defining moments in modern science.**

Illustration: Molly Mundy, a third-year illustration student at Edinburgh College of Art on exchange from Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Dr Victoria Martin

– one from the Atlas experiment and the other from the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment. I spent much of the previous week worrying about the logistics: finding a room, checking the quality of the webcasts, inviting a few special guests, arranging someone to look after my son before and after his nursery hours and sourcing Swiss-quality croissants at 7am. But it's a moment I've spent 16 years waiting for.

As one of the 15 members of the Atlas Edinburgh team, I already knew what one of the presentations would reveal. Using data collected over the previous 18 months, the Atlas experiment had seen a "five sigma bump". "Five sigma" is the measure physicists use to be at least 99.9999 per cent certain something

**O**n the morning of 4 July, 70 early risers from the University's School of Physics & Astronomy crowded into a lecture room to hear two presentations webcast from CERN

new really has been observed. We just needed the CMS experiment to announce similar results. CMS revealed a 4.9 "sigma bump" – not quite five – but close enough. "I think we have it!" said Rolf-Dieter Heuer, the Director General of CERN, immediately after the presentations. He was, of course, referring to the Higgs boson.

The story starts back in 1964. Peter Higgs, then a young lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, was considering gauge theory. Gauge theory combines three cornerstones of modern physics: quantum physics, which describes the physics of the very small; Einstein's theory of special relativity, which describes the physics of the very fast, and symmetries, which are observed in many branches of physics. Therefore gauge theory seemed like an excellent candidate to describe fundamental subatomic particles: which are very small, very fast and very symmetric.

There was, however, something very wrong with gauge theory – it did not allow any of the fundamental particles to



have a mass. In other words, it was not consistent with the fact that fundamental particles stick together to form atoms, molecules and the elegant structures of the universe. This is where Peter came in; he worked out that if the symmetries were modified – broken – in a certain ingenious way, the fundamental particles could have a mass. In the summer of 1964, Peter was not the only one to make this observation; a total of six physicists published versions of the same theory. However, Peter was the only one to identify the key observable consequence that a new particle would exist – a particle we know today as the Higgs boson.

More than 40 years later my colleague Dr Phil Clark and I became part of the search for that particle. We established the Atlas Edinburgh team, joining the CERN-based Atlas experiment. In layman's terms, Atlas is a highly sophisticated digital camera the size of the McEwan Hall. It sits 100 metres underground astride the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). For the uninitiated, the LHC is a 27km proton racetrack: it accelerates bunches of  $10^{11}$  protons, almost to the speed of light, and

smashes them into each other. Atlas is positioned at one of the collision points, and watches the fireworks caused by each collision, using its camera to take detailed three-dimensional images 40,000 times each second.

How do we use this data to observe the Higgs boson? It ain't easy. The Higgs boson is unstable; it decays after just  $10^{-22}$  seconds into lighter subatomic particles. Often these particles are also unstable, causing a chain of particle decays. Moreover, even though the LHC collides  $10^{11}$  protons into  $10^{11}$  protons 40 million times every second, only one in ten billion collisions will produce a Higgs boson. Simply put, the Higgs boson is a rare beast that decays before we can ever see it. That's where the Atlas experiment comes in. Atlas detects the end result of any Higgs bosons' decays. Experimentalists – like me and the rest of the Atlas Edinburgh team – piece back together the data, like putting a jigsaw puzzle together, to see if the overall picture looks like a Higgs boson, or, much more commonly, not. And now we've seen it: we have completed just enough

jigsaws to be sure the LHC is creating a particle never observed before, our “five sigma bump”.

The work doesn't end here. Our bump certainly looks like the Higgs boson. But we physicists are picky. The theory started by Peter back in 1964 predicts more than just the existence of the Higgs boson. It tells us all possibilities for Higgs boson decay, and how often each should happen; it tells us the Higgs boson can interact with itself. As experimental physicists we need to test the theory to its fullest extent before we truly believe it. The LHC will collide protons until 2020, and probably beyond. Edinburgh physicists will be there, analysing the data, putting the pieces of the jigsaw back together to see if Peter's theory is correct as it stands, or maybe, just maybe, if our five sigma bump is not quite what we thought it was. 

Dr Victoria Martin is a lecturer and researcher in particle physics at the School of Physics & Astronomy and a member of the Particle Physics Experiment Group.

# people news

## Royal Society recognition for five

Five Edinburgh researchers have been honoured with prestigious Royal Society awards to mark the wider societal impact of their work.

Professor Adrian Bird, the University's Buchanan Professor of Genetics, has received the GlaxoSmithKline Prize for his outstanding contributions in the field of epigenetics.

The Rosalind Franklin Award was presented to Professor Polly Arnold, Chair of Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry, for her proposal to promote women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as her scientific achievements.

Professor of Informatics Gordon Plotkin was awarded the Milner Award for his fundamental research into programming languages.

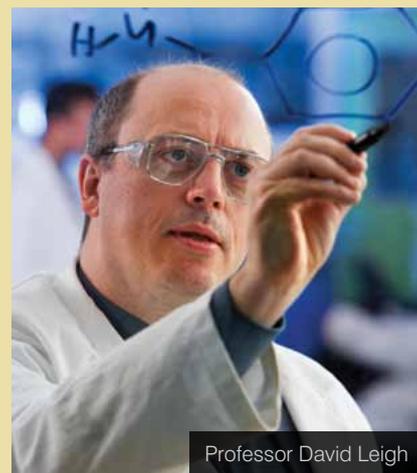
Professor David Leigh, Forbes Professor of Organic Chemistry, will

I'm very proud that so many of our colleagues have been recognised for their excellent scientific work and their commitment to promoting the benefits of science.

Professor Lesley Yellowlees

will give the Bakerian Lecture. It will refer to his pioneering studies on the design and synthesis of artificial molecular motors and machines.

A Royal Medal is to be awarded to Emeritus Professor Sir Kenneth Murray in recognition of his crucial contributions to the development of genetic engineering, biotechnology and the study of hepatitis viruses.



Professor David Leigh

"I am very proud that so many of our colleagues have been recognised for their excellent scientific work and their commitment to promoting the benefits of science," says Professor Lesley Yellowlees, Vice Principal and Head of the College of Science & Engineering.



## Gold for gender equality

The University's School of Chemistry has earned the highest award available for promoting gender equality in the science, engineering and technology fields.

The School of Chemistry is the second department in the UK to receive the Athena SWAN Gold Award.

"Gold departments are beacons of achievement in gender equality, and they champion and promote good practice to the wider community," says Sarah Dickinson, who oversees the Athena SWAN Charter. "We're delighted to welcome Edinburgh's School of Chemistry to gold level, joining the only other holders of a Gold Award, the University of York's chemistry department.

The Athena SWAN Charter recognises and celebrates good employment practice for women working in science, engineering and technology in higher education and research.

The University is one of 42 members of the Athena SWAN Charter and a holder of its Bronze award. Last year, the School of Biomedical Sciences earned the Silver award, and earlier this year the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh received Bronze.

One of the targets outlined in the University's *Strategic Plan 2012–2016* is to achieve the Silver award at an institutional level.



Valerie Bennett

Liam Ross and Tolulope Onabolu

## Duo displays at Venice Biennale

An Edinburgh College of Art team is displaying its work at one of the world's most prestigious contemporary arts exhibitions. Liam Ross, Lecturer in Architectural Design, and Edinburgh College of Art graduate Tolulope Onabolu were selected to exhibit at this year's Venice Biennale Architecture as part of the British Council's Venice Takeaway project.

The duo was one of 10 architectural teams chosen to participate in the Venice Takeaway exhibition at the British Pavilion.

Venice Takeaway participants were asked to use research drawn from a global expedition to inject new ideas into UK architecture.

The Venice Biennale offers exhibitions in many areas of the arts, including cinema, theatre, dance and music. The Venice Biennale Architecture runs until 25 November, and the Venice Takeaway exhibition will also be on display at Royal Institute of British Architects in London from 26 February to 27 April 2013.

## Marathon fundraising effort

James Garden, Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery, has run the 2012 Chicago Marathon, held on 7 October, to raise money for University-related projects.

The surgeon undertook the feat to raise money for existing bursaries for disadvantaged international students enrolled in the University's award-winning surgical distance learning programmes, and to support a project to erect a city statue to mark architect William Playfair's contribution to Edinburgh's heritage.

This is the second time Professor Garden has run the Chicago Marathon, finishing the 26-mile course in 2009 in a respectable four hours, 25 minutes and six seconds to raise £5,000 for the Garden Surgical Bursary Fund.

To support Professor Garden, visit:

- <http://edinburghuni.workwithus.org/MedicalBursary>
- <http://edinburghuni.workwithus.org/PlayfairStatue>

### Get involved

Do you have an idea about how you or your colleagues could raise money for a University project? From running to rock climbing, baking to bingo, there are many ways to fundraise, and a diverse range of projects to support at [www.edinburghcampaign.com](http://www.edinburghcampaign.com). Contact Individual Giving Officer Kerry Mackay for more information at [kerry.mackay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:kerry.mackay@ed.ac.uk).

## people news in brief...

### ROYAL HONOURS

Two University researchers have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Professor Scott Murray, St Columba's Hospice Chair of Primary Palliative Care, has been made MBE for Services to Medical Science, while Professor Heather Cubie, Head of the University-based Human Papillomavirus Group, was made MBE for Services to Healthcare Science in Scotland.

### CHESS CHAMPIONS

The University of Edinburgh's chess team has triumphed at the British Universities' Chess Association (BUCA) Championships. The team comprising students Adam Bremner, Gabriel Petesch, Boris Mitrovic and Clément Sreeves battled through five rounds to reach the top of the leaderboard, and become 2012 BUCA champions.

### OUTREACH EXCELLENCE

Biomedical researcher Dr Marieke Hoeve has won the the Society for General Microbiology Outreach Prize in recognition of her public engagement activity. The Research Fellow and Project Manager with the Centre for Regenerative Medicine, who is part of the Outreach Programme of the British Society for Immunology, has been involved in an extensive range of public engagement activities, including the development of a science card game with a Fellowship awarded by the Beltane Public Engagement Network.

### PRIZE FOR TOM DEVINE

Professor Tom Devine, Senior Research Professor in History, has been awarded the Royal Society of Edinburgh's inaugural Sir Walter Scott Prize for his outstanding contribution to the study of Scottish history. The Society commended the historian's ability to bring Scottish history alive for worldwide audiences and his prolific contribution to Scottish historical literature.

### MEDICAL FELLOWSHIPS GRANTED

Two University medical researchers have been formally admitted to the Academy of Medical Sciences. Jane Norman, Professor of Maternal and Fetal Health, and Professor Philippa Saunders, Director of the MRC Centre for Reproductive Health, were two of 46 leading medical researchers to join the prestigious fellowship this year.

## New Director of Finance appointed

**P**hil McNaul, formerly Director of Finance at Heriot-Watt University, has joined the University of Edinburgh's Finance team as its new Director, succeeding Jon Gorrige.

Phil brings to the post wide-ranging experience from both the higher education sector and private sector.

"I'm delighted that Phil is joining the University," says Nigel Paul, Director of Corporate Services. "He brings with him a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, which will ensure the momentum for continually growing and excelling in our activities is maintained."

A chartered accountant and alumnus of the University, Phil has been convenor of the Scottish Universities Finance Directors Group, and has been active in wider sector activities. Prior to joining Heriot-Watt University he undertook a range of roles at drinks group Scottish & Newcastle.

"It's a great privilege to be joining such a prestigious university with a tremendous history and reputation and yet with ambition to build further on that success," says Mr McNaul.



# obituary

## Professor Bill Scott (1935–2012)



**B**ill Scott was a gifted and distinguished sculptor and a respected member of the artistic community in Scotland.

He was born in Moniaive, Dumfriesshire, in 1935. He studied at Edinburgh College of Art from 1953 to 1959, and then attended the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

In 1961 he joined the staff at Edinburgh College of Art, where he remained until 1997. He was Head of Sculpture from 1989 and, in 1994, was appointed a professor in the Faculty of Art and Design, Heriot-Watt University.

His influence as Head of Sculpture was far-reaching. He encouraged students to trust their own ideas and directions, giving them the confidence to be

ambitious. He introduced a variety of visiting lecturers, widening the School's horizons.

During his career he was on the board of the Fruitmarket Gallery, a member of the faculty of the British School at Rome, Chairman of the Awards Committee of the Scottish Arts Council and served on the committee of the Edinburgh Visual Arts and Crafts Award Scheme.

He continued to support his students after graduation through his friendship and in practical ways. Always interested in people and ideas he enjoyed lively debate with his students and friends over a cup of coffee or a glass of beer.

In 1999 he became the chairman of the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop (ESW). Through his chairmanship £3.5 million was raised for a new ESW building, which opened in June. An additional

£3 million awarded by the Scottish Community Foundation will fund an adjoining "Creative Laboratory".

In 2007 he became the first sculptor to be elected president of the Royal Scottish Academy, and in 2011 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Edinburgh College of Art by the University of Edinburgh.

Throughout his life he continued to develop his own work. A recent series of constructions titled *Measuring Personal Space* will be exhibited at the RSA Annual Exhibition, which opened earlier this year.

He is survived by his wife Phyl, their three children, Alex, Beth and Jeanie, and three grandchildren.

**William Brotherston**  
(An extract taken from a full obituary published in the *Scotsman*.)

# My nine to five: **Vicky Jane Young**

**Science communicator and PhD student Vicky Jane Young, winner of I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here and the Society for Applied Microbiology Communications Award, talks to *bulletin* about remaking *Jurassic Park*, racing sperm and performing stand-up comedy.**



**I'm working at the MRC Centre for Reproductive Health with Dr Andrew Horne.** We're researching endometriosis, a condition where the lining of the womb can embed in the abdominal cavity surfaces, causing lesions and becoming quite painful.

**Before my PhD I worked in industry for around three years.** I really enjoyed that but I wanted to do a PhD to progress my career.

**I do the Egg and Sperm Race with Gemma Sharp** [a holder of the Principal's Career Development PhD Scholarship]. Gemma had been to the Green Man Festival and seen that they had this science communication garden. So we thought about what activity we could do there, and the idea of racing sperm developed.

**We built a two-metre uterus and we race sperm through it.** We want to show that it's really difficult for sperm to reach an egg under normal circumstances because there's lots of barriers in the way, from the vagina right through to the fallopian tube. So it's really difficult to get pregnant.

**So many people don't understand how the small things in our lives can actually affect our ability to conceive a child.** Not many people know that smoking can increase your chances of ectopic pregnancy, and ectopic pregnancy is one of the biggest killers of women who are in the early stages of pregnancy.

**I did Bright Club at the Green Man Festival, along with the Egg and Sperm Race.** I had to get on stage and do seven minutes of stand-up comedy based on my research. It was horrible, but it turned out to be the best presentation course I could have done.

**Edinburgh Beltane helped a lot.** They do a lot of events for people who are involved in public engagement and they've built up this really amazing community. I don't think much of this would have happened without them.

**One morning over coffee, myself, Steve Earle and Dan Arnold came up with the idea of Nonfi-sci.** We take movies that have an element of science in them that may be wrong

and we try to correct it for a real-life outcome. We get people to remake a five-minute version of the movie, using the corrected science. It's all about team building, and encouraging people to question the science that we see in movies.

**In *Jurassic Park*, there are lots of places where the science is wrong.** In the Jurassic era, there was a lot more oxygen content in the air so the dinosaurs could grow a lot bigger. If you did manage to create a T-Rex in a lab it's probably not going to be big, it's going to be quite small, which is pretty hilarious.

**Social media plays a big part in science communication.** It's important for developing contacts in the science communication field. When we applied for funding from the Endocrinology Society, they already knew our project from our social media activities.

**There's now a big push from science funding bodies to incorporate science communication into your work.** Most grants you apply for ask you to have some element of science communication in your work, and I think it's really important to be able to communicate your research so people know that what you're doing is important.

## ... and relax

**Favourite lunch spot**  
Loudons Cafe and Bakery,  
Fountainbridge (right)

**Ideal holiday**  
A quiet beach with a book

**Favourite time of year**  
Christmas

**Perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon**  
Having lunch with my mum  
and shopping



# health & wellbeing



In every edition of *bulletin*, we round up the tips, policies and activities designed to keep you fit, healthy and well at work and beyond. Visit [www.ed.ac.uk/staff/health-wellbeing](http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff/health-wellbeing) for more advice and information.



## Work-related travel advice

Are you planning to travel for work this year? The University's Occupational Health Unit (OHU), based at Drummond Street, can provide you with specific health advice according to your travel itinerary. OHU also provides a full range of travel-related vaccines and anti-malarial medications and supplies basic travel health kits. The unit's staff includes nurses with additional training in travel health.

Contact the team at [occupational.health@ed.ac.uk](mailto:occupational.health@ed.ac.uk) or on 0131 650 8192 or visit [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/occupational-health](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/occupational-health).

## Top class for environmental efforts

The University has achieved a first-class award in the People & Planet Green League 2012. Edinburgh was one of 46 institutions that gained the top ranking in the league of 145 universities.

This year's results mark out Edinburgh as an environmental leader among Russell Group institutions. It is one of only five of these 24 institutions to achieve a first-class award.

"I am delighted that the hard work and innovative ideas of our students and staff have been recognised," says Mary Bownes, Vice-Principal External Engagement. "The University of Edinburgh is committed to sustainability and has in place policies and strategies to deliver on environmental issues, ethical procurement and the carbon management of a complex estate."

The result builds on the 2:1 that the University was awarded in 2011. The People & Planet Green League assesses the environmental and ethical performance of all universities annually and is published in the *Guardian*.

The University's John McIntyre Conference Centre was also recognised for being environmentally friendly. It was ranked Highly Commended in the Goldstar Awards, part of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.



## What's the buzzzz ZZ Z?

Pollock Halls is welcoming a different kind of resident this year – bees. Two beehives have been introduced to the estate to help increase the site's biodiversity. Pollock Halls staff and students will also have the chance to learn about the art of beekeeping through a range of seminars and hands-on workshops offered throughout the year.

Contact [sandra.kinnear@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sandra.kinnear@ed.ac.uk) if you want to find out more.



## KB cycling boost

Cycle links between the city centre and King's Buildings are set to improve significantly with the completion of Edinburgh's first Quality Bike Corridor this autumn.

The Quality Bike Corridor, from George IV Bridge to King's Buildings, will include new cycle lanes and bus lanes. Changes will be made to the parking and loading restrictions along the route to minimise the blocking of cycle lanes by stationary vehicles.

Cyclists will also be able to use an alternative quieter route, signposted as the Family Cycle Network Route 6, which directs users along the Meadows cycle paths and quiet roads through the Grange.

"I very much hope the new routes will encourage more staff, students and visitors to cycle to the University," says Emma Crowther, University Transport and Parking Manager. "The University's Transport and

Parking Office offers lots of support and encouragement to take up cycling, including free cycle training, free maintenance courses, and free bike maintenance sessions. Staff and students should get in contact with us for more information."

A significant benefit of the corridor will be the provision of new pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities at the junction of Mayfield Road and West Mains. To tie in with the Quality Bike Corridor the University has re-landscaped the area in front of the Ashworth Laboratories, creating a new entrance to the King's Buildings campus at the junction of Mayfield Road and West Mains.

### Get on your bike!

Does news of the Quality Bike Corridor inspire you to cycle? The University's Cycle-to-Work initiative, operated through Cyclescheme, offers staff the chance to buy a new bike and accessories using salary instalments before tax and national insurance deductions. To find out more, visit one of the Cyclescheme Roadshows, held throughout the University estate this autumn.

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

## Work smarter

The demands of our fast-paced lives can leave us feeling busy, overwhelmed and sometimes off track. Researcher and academic productivity mentor **Olga Degtyareva** shares five tips that will help you become more productive.

**1 Switch off technology.** By closing down email and internet and switching your mobile phone off you beat procrastination and allow focused time for important tasks.

**2 Set a timer for 30–60 minutes.** If you need to accomplish an important task on a busy day, focus on it completely until the alarm goes off, avoiding distractions and interruptions.

Works like magic!



**3 Assess your priorities and work out what has a lifetime value.** These can be new work projects, papers that need to be written, personal and professional development or your wellbeing. Remind yourself about them daily.

**4 Plan on a weekly basis.** Glance at your coming week with all its meetings and appointments. Schedule specific tasks to move forward the important things that are usually sitting on the back burner.

**5 List your accomplishments.** We often feel that with the start of a new week the bar has been raised higher. Consider what goals you've completed and congratulate yourself; this will give you a feeling of achievement and help you gain momentum.

Olga Degtyareva is a Research Fellow at the School of Physics & Astronomy.

Find out more tips at her blog at <http://olgadegtyareva.com>.

# Spot the difference

Gray Line Scotland is offering two lucky *bulletin* readers two tickets each for one of its one-day tours, departing from Edinburgh. To enter, just find five differences in our Spot the Difference puzzle. Compare the two pictures on the right. The image on the far right differs from the one on the left. Circle each difference and send us your entry by Friday 2 November to the address on page 2. Correct entries will be placed in a draw and the winner will be selected at random.





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The Local Expert.**



## HIGHLAND TOURS



- Loch Ness
- Loch Lomond
- Rosslyn Chapel
- St Andrews
- Whisky

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## The University of Edinburgh Visitor Centre

Drop in to the the University of Edinburgh Visitor Centre for great gift ideas and University merchandise. You'll also find a great exhibition packed with interesting facts about the history of your University. We're just next to Potterrow, between Bristo Square and George Square, at:  
2 Charles Street  
Edinburgh EH8 9AD

- T 0131 650 2252
- F 0131 650 2253
- E [universitycentre@ed.ac.uk](mailto:universitycentre@ed.ac.uk)
- W [www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk](http://www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk)



# noticeboard

It costs £5 to advertise in *bulletin*, which is published twice a year.

Please email your ad to [small.ads@ed.ac.uk](mailto:small.ads@ed.ac.uk) and send a cheque payable to the University of Edinburgh to Small Ads, Communications and Marketing, C Floor, Forrest Hill Building, 5 Forrest Hill, Edinburgh EH1 2QL.

Only current members of staff and students are eligible to place an ad. Ads are accepted in good faith and *bulletin* cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies in or problems caused by an ad.

## FOR SALE: One-bedroom Flat

Spacious, light, well-maintained, top-floor flat in leafy cul-de-sac in Abbeyhill Colonies. Easy walking distance of town centre, Royal Mile, Parliament buildings, excellent bus links as well as good local shops. Offers over £95,000. ESPC ref: 311052.

Contact: [Elisabet.Weedon@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Elisabet.Weedon@ed.ac.uk)

## FOR HIRE: Jazz Pianist

Whether it's for your special birthday, wedding or anniversary party at home or for a more formal reception at a venue, I can bring high quality live background jazz in solo or duo/trio setting. I have been performing now for some three years in restaurants and at social events so with this wealth of experience and extensive repertoire I can guarantee a memorable evening's music. Contact Fraser Urquhart to arrange to hear more.

• [fjurquhart@gmail.com](mailto:fjurquhart@gmail.com)  
• T: 07794 399 892

## SHORT-TERM LET: Easter Road flat

Light, spacious one-bedroom flat (sleeps 4) nr. Abbeyhill. Easy (foot/bus) access to city centre and University. Free Wi-Fi. Shops, restaurants and on-street parking nearby. Children welcome. Maximum 30-day stay.

More info at:

- [61easterroad@selfcateringedinburgh.eu](mailto:61easterroad@selfcateringedinburgh.eu)
- [www.holidaylettings.co.uk/229971](http://www.holidaylettings.co.uk/229971)

## HOLIDAY LET: Bristol, Maine

Early farmhouse on country road, comfortable all weathers, sleeps seven, close to lake/river, 15-min drive to ocean beach, local produce, restaurants. Free Wi-Fi. Available August–October.

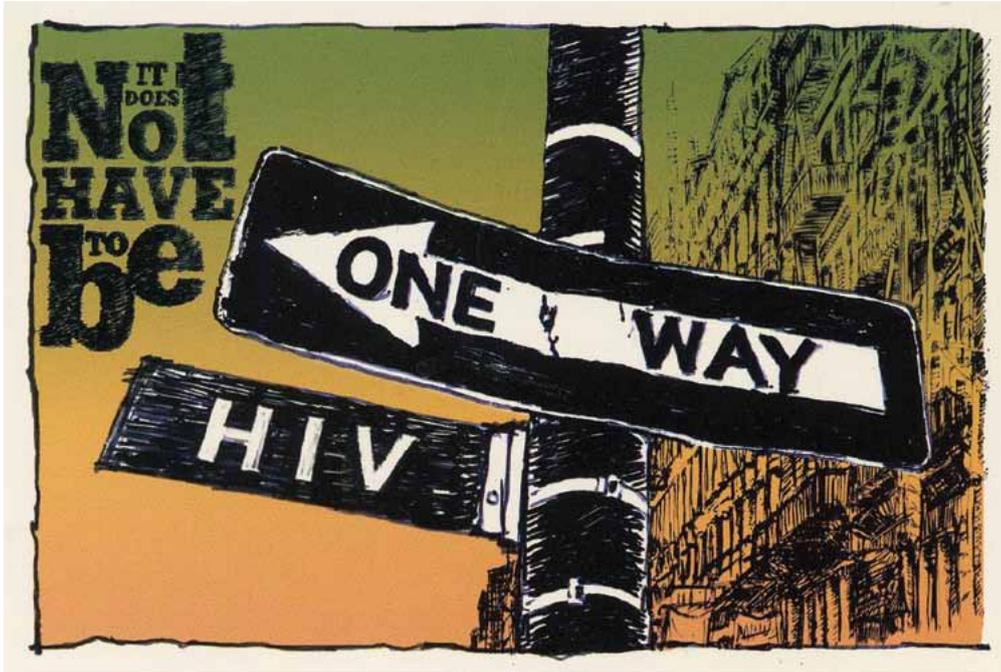
Contact: [E.Bard@ed.ac.uk](mailto:E.Bard@ed.ac.uk)

## STAY ON TRACK

Learn how to overcome procrastination, keep balance, stay on track and more!

UoE research fellow and expert in peaceful productivity Olga Degtyareva shares techniques on how to manage it all in her blog.

• <http://olgadegtyareva.com>



## Showcase

In every issue of *bulletin* we highlight a piece of history from the University's collections.

### Edinburgh and Lothian HIV/AIDS Collections

Lothian Health Services Archive (The University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research Collections) holds 11 individual collections, covering the period 1983 to 2010, which chart the response to the unprecedented rise of HIV/AIDS in Edinburgh and Lothian. Combining the records of the NHS, local government, charities and campaign groups, these collections document the medical and social reactions at a local level and demonstrate the approach subsequently taken to tackle the disease across the region.

The collections were added to the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register in 2011. This is a significant achievement and recognises the importance of these collections for our shared documentary heritage and as a key research resource.

- [www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/source/HIVAIDS\\_index.htm](http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/source/HIVAIDS_index.htm)
- [www.unesco.org.uk/uk\\_memory\\_of\\_the\\_world\\_register](http://www.unesco.org.uk/uk_memory_of_the_world_register)