



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

bulletin*

SPRING 2010

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE



Life through a lens

Our Vet School is captured
on camera – page 8

One world, one vision

A new health academy
aims to make the world
a better place – page 7

Cultivating the revolution

The collective campus
effort to reduce our carbon
footprint – page 10

Hard to swallow

Can a government policy
improve the treatment of
depression? – page 14

Mapping the universe

Physicist Dr Phil Clark on the
University's role in the ATLAS
experiment – page 17



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

“I want to help future generations of researchers continue our work.”



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH CAMPAIGN

Kath Melia is Professor of Nursing Studies at the University of Edinburgh. This year, she took the significant step of making a gift in her will to help continue the work and research of the University.

Kath explains, “I was touched to find that a former colleague, who had played a pivotal

role in developing nursing at Edinburgh, had remembered the University in her will, a gesture which is helping the important work we are doing today. This has inspired me to do the same.”

By making a gift in your will, you, too, can help shape the future of Edinburgh.

Legacies from former members of staff at the University of Edinburgh support teaching, facilities and research across the Schools and Colleges. We are very grateful for this commitment.

This support is vital to help this work continue and legacies, big and small, can make a difference to a research project or help support a junior researcher present their work for the first time.

A legacy to the University can be named in your honour or after a loved one or be made anonymously, and can also reduce the inheritance tax on your estate.

If you would like more information on leaving a legacy to the University of Edinburgh or if you have already done so, please contact our Legacy team in confidence:

email: joanne.finnie@ed.ac.uk
morag.murison@ed.ac.uk
telephone: 0131 650 2240

If you have already made a gift in your will, we would like to thank you and acknowledge your generosity. Your intentions can also remain anonymous if you prefer.

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SUBMISSION DETAILS

If you would like to submit an idea for an article, or tell us about some news, please contact us at the email address above in advance of the next deadline. The summer edition of *bulletin* will be published in July, and the deadline for submissions is 30 April.

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

editorial

This month our vets from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine will be appearing in an STV documentary about clinical life at Easter Bush. In the film, and indeed in reality, our veterinary workers play a crucial role in supporting the vast array of animals whose stories are told with humanity and compassion. On pages 8–9, *bulletin* takes a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the series.

On pages 6–7, we profile two University research initiatives that in different ways seek to care for our planet on a global scale by harnessing expertise in both climate change and international health. Continuing the caring theme on pages 10–11, we look at the gathering momentum in the staff effort to reduce the University's carbon footprint in a bid to preserve our planet. Focusing on mental wellbeing, coinciding with this month's Mental Health Action Week, our opinion section on pages 14–16 offers academic insight into the benefits and pitfalls of a Scottish Government policy to lower targets for antidepressant prescriptions.

To be informed regularly of University news, you can now sign up to our online *Staff Bulletin* email service, which delivers the headlines direct to your inbox. Visit *Staff Bulletin* at: www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin.



International student Cameron Jeffrey Boulton's image for the inaugural Global Horizons photography competition on the theme of 'Edinburgh as home'. View other entries and the winners on pages 12–13.

Old College quad set for revamp

A project to redevelop the Old College quadrangle is to go ahead this year following a 10-year campaign to improve the area.

Funding has been secured to resurface the quadrangle, replace the gravel and finally complete the vision of the building's original architects, Robert Adam and William Playfair.

University academic Dr Lyndhurst Collins, who has been at the University since 1970, has been a strong advocate for the project. He says: "Old College, and its quadrangle, is one of Scotland's foremost architectural masterpieces. The University has a duty to undertake an interpretation of what Playfair may have envisioned for one of the most important elements of Edinburgh's heritage."

Robert Adam first presented his plans for Old College in 1789, but died before the work was completed. William Playfair was later appointed to manage the project in 1816. However, the project ran into financial difficulty so the quadrangle was never fully completed.

A tendering process for the project will take place this spring and Edinburgh architects Simpson & Brown are working on a design. Construction work is scheduled to begin in the summer.



Geoff Turnbull, Assistant Director of Estates and Buildings, says that the benefits reaped by the project are numerous, enhancing both the accessibility and aesthetic qualities of the building for staff, students and visitors. He states: "Old College is the flagship building for the University. The quadrangle's redevelopment will reinforce its position and its permanence".

Old College: a history

- 1789** Foundation stone for today's building is laid, and Robert Adam presents initial designs.
- 1792** Robert Adam dies, and his brothers continue as supervising architects until financial issues halt the project.
- 1816** William Playfair takes over as lead architect.
- 1887** The Golden Boy statue is placed on top of the Old College dome as a result of a philanthropic donation from local lawyer Robert Cox.
- 2001** Dr Lyndhurst Collins begins actively campaigning for the completion of the Old College quadrangle in line with what may have been envisioned by the original architects.
- 2006** Simpson & Brown is one of four architecture firms invited to submit plans for a redevelopment of the Old College quadrangle and is selected by former Depute Director of Estates and Buildings John Leishman and Dr Lyndhurst Collins because the firm's proposal is "most in sympathy with the design of Old College itself."
- 2010** The tendering process for the work is scheduled for spring.

Business School prepares for new home

The University of Edinburgh's Business School is preparing for a major relocation as part of its strategy to become an international centre for business education.

The former Adam Ferguson Building at 40 George Square, is to be the School's new home.

The £17 million investment into developing a new bespoke building at this central-campus site will play an important role in the School's ambition to become a prestige business school, providing high-quality undergraduate, postgraduate and executive education.

Structural modification has been carried out with a complete internal refit. The addition of a new top floor and a new pavilion has been created. An entrance foyer facing onto Buccleuch Place is well under way.

The new School will also have an impressive range of eight lecture theatres, student facilities, a resource centre, cafe and trading room. It has been designed to function as a venue and meeting place where academics, students and corporate partners can come together. For the first time the School will have dedicated executive education facilities.



The new building is set to open in late 2010. More information can be found at the Business School's development blog <http://blogs.business-school.ed.ac.uk/afb-development>.



Bringing science to the public

University staff and students are gearing up for Discover Science, the University's largest annual contribution to the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

From 8–17 April, staff and students will be involved in a range of hands-on, family-friendly science activities, many of which are free.

During these drop-in activities, workshops and shows, visitors will have the opportunity to discover biodiversity, be a pop-up engineer, or detect cosmic rays from outer space.

These events take place at the National Museum of Scotland and the University's Adam House, both on Chambers Street, with some shows at George Square Theatre.

Staff from both the Colleges of Science & Engineering and Medicine & Veterinary Medicine are involved in this popular event, with support from the University Festivals Office.

Full programme and booking details: www.sciencefestival.co.uk.

Scholarship scheme to benefit PhD students

The University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, has unveiled a £6 million PhD scholarship programme.

The Principal's Career Development PhD Scholarships are open to UK, EU and overseas students taking research degrees in any field of study.

Close to 60 scholarships will be offered per year for students beginning their study over the next two academic years.

Scholars will receive a package of career training that supports them to develop skills in research, teaching, public engagement or entrepreneurship.

Each scholarship will cover the home rate of tuition fee as well as a stipend which will increase by £500 each year.

Subject to satisfactory progress, the awards can cover the cost of studying at the University for up to three years.

news in brief...

DONATION BOOST TO MEDICINE

Medical research at the University has received a major boost from a record financial donation worth £1.26 million, donated by Ronald Storey in honour of a pledge he made to lifelong friend and Edinburgh graduate the late Dr George Birtwistle. The funds will play a major part in the creation of a new imaging centre at the University.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS FOR HSS

The University's College of Humanities & Social Science has been selected by the Fulbright Commission to host the Fulbright-Scotland Visiting Professorship. Under the scheme the College will host three eminent US professors for six months each, throughout a three-year period. These guest academics will be chosen by the Fulbright Commission with input from the University.

NEW UNESCO CHAIR

UNESCO has provided backing for a new University research post in international development. The first appointee to the UNESCO Chair in International Development is Professor Paul van Gardingen. He joins a global network of academics supported by UNESCO. He says: "The award of a UNESCO Chair recognises the staff and resources that the University has invested in the developing world."

50 FIRMS FORMED BY EPIS

The University's business-nurturing initiative has helped form its 50th company. Angelfish Microfinance will provide lending opportunities for small businesses in Scotland. It is the latest firm to benefit from the support provided by the Edinburgh Pre-Incubator Scheme (EPIS), which was founded in 2003 to encourage and assist University graduates and staff to develop their business ideas into operating firms.

NEW ORIENTEERING CENTRE

The University is to host a centre dedicated to developing elite student athletes in orienteering. The Orienteering Centre of Excellence has been created through a unique multi-partnership arrangement involving the University with British Orienteering, Scottish Orienteering, and Scotland's national sports scholarship scheme, Winning Students. The Centre will be led by Finnish orienteering coach and elite competitor Toni Louhisola.

The climate for change

Catriona Kelly reports on a new collaborative venture that will place Edinburgh as a leader in climate change education.

A world-leading hub of expertise to tackle the challenges of climate change is to be created by the University.

Working in partnership with public and private sector decision makers, the Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change (ECCC) will seek to create a vibrant community of people delivering the skills and the necessary social and technical innovation to solve climate change-related challenges.

The venture unites the University of Edinburgh with Heriot-Watt and Edinburgh Napier universities and other partners across Scotland to build resilient communities and deliver a low-carbon economy.

Dr Andy Kerr, Director of the Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society, and a researcher at the University, says: "The University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University and their partners are uniquely placed to make a vital contribution to tackling climate change-related challenges, which are some of the biggest challenges facing society today. In combination, they have the expertise, the teaching capabilities, the global reach and the desire to create the community of required to support the development of robust, prosperous societies."

Experts at the Centre will develop its research strengths in carbon capture and storage, renewable energy systems, carbon finance and carbon management. The ECCC will benefit from the practice of Scottish research pools – such as the Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society – which seek to break down barriers between subjects and between institutions.

Building on Edinburgh's pioneering masters degrees in management and carbon capture and storage, the ECCC

will support its partners in delivering a range of focused postgraduate programmes on subjects including environment and law, and carbon finance, as well as tailored education courses on carbon accounting for business representatives and policymakers.

Combining Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt's capabilities in climate change education – both through masters degrees and executive education – will provide students and professionals with the skills needed to meet the social and environmental challenges facing society.

"In supporting our partners' masters programmes, which equip graduates to make environmentally aware commercial decisions, and through our suite of executive education courses, the ECCC can make an immediate impact on business leaders and policymakers," Dr Kerr adds.

A dedicated facility to house the Centre will be created by redeveloping existing buildings at the High School Yards site in the University's Central Area.

The £10 million refurbishment will produce a collaborative environment – the design will feature conference, teaching and meeting rooms to encourage discourse among staff and students.

The site will provide a home for students, stakeholders and visitors from around the world, and it is hoped its proximity to Holyrood can provoke and facilitate interaction with policymakers.

The Centre's broad base of expertise goes beyond science and engineering to encompass law, economics, business and social science. Its remit to work in partnership with decision makers across society will help to establish Edinburgh as a leader in the provision of climate change education.



One world, one vision

Ed Nash investigates the new University initiative that is taking on the world's health.

Image: rjuliana, stockxchng



The University has launched a Global Health Academy that draws together experts from across the University to address issues in world health. This interdisciplinary project provides a forum for collaboration between staff across the three Colleges, and among partners in other organisations.

Staff in biomedical sciences, public health, veterinary medicine, social sciences and engineering, and from many other subject areas, will exchange knowledge to address issues including obesity, pandemic flu and tropical diseases such as malaria, sleeping sickness and rabies. By facilitating collaboration between experts with different backgrounds and experience, the academy will seek to translate cutting-edge scientific advances into practical, effective and efficient solutions that can be implemented in developing countries.

Professor Stephen Hillier, Vice-Principal International, said the Global Health Academy, was a unique approach to interdisciplinary collaboration for the University.

He explains: "By bringing together all the experts from across the University and partner organisations we are adding massive value to what already goes on at Edinburgh.

"Health is much more than medicine – it has an impact on every aspect of human society. That is why it is vital we bring

together staff from all our areas of expertise to address the health challenges we face around the world."

As well as devising new health solutions, the Academy will also provide a portfolio of postgraduate degrees, including online programmes, which will enable healthcare professionals around the globe to learn from Edinburgh's expertise while they continue to live and work in their local communities.

Existing courses, which have been integrated into the Academy, include the online International Animal Health MSc. This part-time programme is designed to allow students around the world – many of whom are practising vets – to continue work while developing their skills. It offers

students in developing countries access to the world-leading expertise of Edinburgh's Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine.

Global Health Academy Director, Professor Sue Welburn, says: "The Academy is an important statement of the commitment of the University and the practitioners around the world who are joining us to address global health issues. We have tended to think in terms of the developing and the developed world as being two distinct entities. In the 21st century we need to revise our global vision and realise that this is one world: the Global Health Academy will focus on solutions which benefit all global citizens."



A global health tradition

The University of Edinburgh has long held international links to healthcare.

James Africanus Horton (above right), of Freetown, Sierra Leone, became the first African to graduate from a Western university after attending Edinburgh in the 1850s, and qualifying as a doctor in 1859.



The first Chinese student to graduate from a Western university was Huang Kuan, who graduated in medicine in 1855, before completing a PhD in Pathology and Anatomy in 1857. He later introduced new types of surgery in China and made a notable contribution in the fight against the cholera epidemic which broke out in Canton in 1873.

More recently, in 2007, Professor Zhong Nanshan (below right) was awarded an honorary degree from the University in recognition of his pioneering investigations into the SARS virus. He studied at Edinburgh between 1979 and 1981.





Photography: Paul Dodds

feature **Life through a lens** *

A forthcoming STV documentary series will showcase the varied caseload encountered on a daily basis by the Dick Vet's experienced clinical teams. Claire Simpson finds out how our vets coped with working under the scrutiny of a camera crew.



Surrounded by a group of enthusiastic students, Dr Lottie Bell, a farm animal vet at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, is perched precariously on the belly of an underperforming cow, which is patiently lying down as she expels gas from its stomach.

Lottie has been called out to the Vet School's own working dairy farm, a valuable teaching resource and home to 200 pedigree Friesians. One of the cows has been producing significantly less milk than usual, and Lottie has been called upon to investigate why. She is accompanied by a group of students, seizing the opportunity to provide some of the School's vets-in-training with a little hands-on experience.



Staff were really proactive in explaining what was going on. They understood there was a story to tell.

– series producer Richard Higson

It could be a typical day for the vet but what sets this call-out apart is that aside from the usual crowd of trainee vets observing her every move, Lottie is also being watched closely by a camera crew, gathering footage for a forthcoming STV documentary series about the University's acclaimed Vet School.

The series, hopes Ronnie Soutar, the Dick Vet's Director of Veterinary Services, will raise awareness of the vast range of clinical activity carried out within the School and generate publicity for its wide-ranging animal health services.

He explains: "We want to show not just what the School is doing as a centre for teaching and research but also what our clinics are doing because the more cases that come in, the better caseload we can offer to support the teaching of our students and to feed into our research. Hopefully the series can be a driver for new cases."

Ronnie admits to having had some reservations when the idea was first presented to him by STV producers. "We were wary initially because some of the veterinary programmes that have been

shown in the past have not had the kind of focus we would want. But it became clear they wanted a popular programme that would focus on the animals and their treatment and that was what we wanted to push – what we are able to do for the animals," he says.

From a beloved pet cat facing risky surgery to remove a tumour to a colourful chameleon who needs treatment for a mysterious swollen eye, the stories captured by the cameras reflect the vast and varied work carried out by the Dick Vet's clinical teams.

The filming process lasted six weeks, during which time the production team of four ventured into all areas of the Vet School's clinical work, which includes farm and equine animals, exotic animals



and domestic house pets. "They got on so well with the guys on the ground that no-one saw them as a hindrance," recalls Ronnie, "to the extent that they all came along to our Christmas party!"

Of course not all members of staff were comfortable to be filmed for the series, and their wishes were respected. "But there weren't many," says Ronnie. "Most people want to be stars!"

One of the documentary's willing participants was exotics specialist Kevin Eatwell, who was excited at the prospect of a documentary that would showcase the work of exotic animal vets.

On working under the scrutiny of the camera, Kevin says: "It was difficult to relax initially but the crew were wonderful at making us feel at ease. Any filming was performed as it happened so the footage is completely realistic. Occasionally a brief interview was held to provide additional information for viewers."

Working with the Vet School staff was equally effortless for the TV crew. Richard Higson, the series producer, comments: "Staff were really proactive in explaining

what was going on. They understood there was a story to tell and helped explain things in layman's terms."

This clarity of communication is essential for the programme as educating the public about the treatment of pets and other animals is an important outcome of the series for both the Vet School and the documentary makers.

Kevin explains: "I hope viewers will be able to see what exotic animal vets can do for more unusual pets and that the programme will encourage pet owners to seek appropriate veterinary advice and to learn from the cases filmed so they can keep their animals better at home too."

Ronnie, who has been privy to early cuts of the programme, is pleased with the outcome. "I think they've captured us pretty well," he says. "They've shown what we do in a realistic light, which is a good light, because I think the work we do speaks for itself and we're all very proud of that." ✱

At the time of going to press, the documentary was scheduled to air on STV in four parts during spring.



Photography: Angus Forbes

feature Cultivating the revolution

The University is joining a nationwide pledge to reduce CO² by 10 per cent in 2010. Claire Simpson investigates the collaborative campus effort involved in spreading the CO² reduction message.

Tucked away in a quiet spot, located at the south-easterly edge of the University's King's Buildings campus, is a well-tended allotment, where a group of staff and students are enthusiastically gathered to learn about seasonal gardening.

They are participating primarily because they are keen to reduce their own carbon footprint by learning how to grow their own food. The workshop is part of a week-long programme of events designed to provoke both interest and activity in carbon-cutting initiatives. These events are part of a wider long-term agenda aimed at significantly reducing carbon emissions of the University staff and student community.

Looking after the environment has long been an important priority for the University. It adopted an Environmental Policy in 1993, and a Sustainability Policy in 2000, which has just been superseded by a newly approved Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy. These embed a proactive approach towards environmental issues within all facets of University life and practice. Edinburgh made a more public declaration to its commitment in this area in September 2009, signing up to the nationwide 10:10 initiative, officially pledging to "do our best" to reduce carbon emissions by 10 per cent in 2010.

Dr Dave Reay, Director of the University's MSc in Carbon Management, and one of

the University delegation to the UN Copenhagen climate change conference in 2009, backs the project. He says: "It's a wonderful initiative. For too long the debate has focussed on distant targets and top-down government action. The 10:10 campaign allows each of us to play a real part in tackling climate change."

The four major areas highlighted by the campaign as responsible for a large proportion of a university's carbon footprint are grid electricity, on-site fossil-fuel use, vehicle-fuel use and air travel.

Significant investment in making Edinburgh more energy efficient has already occurred. In December 2007, the University received a National Energy Efficiency Award for its George Square combined heating and power (CHP) system – one of three systems installed across the University estate since 2003. These systems generate annual savings of more than £1 million and cut annual carbon emissions by 8,000 tonnes.

This award was followed in November 2008 with Carbon Trust Standard accreditation for the University's ongoing efforts to reduce its carbon emissions. Edinburgh was the first educational establishment in Scotland to receive this.

Mary Bownes, Vice-Principal Research Training & Community Relations and Convenor of the University's Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Group (SEAG), says: "As a university we have invested heavily in energy efficiency projects and will continue to do so; but we need our most valuable resource – our innovative staff and students – to help us deliver this ambitious target."

Helping to galvanise that staff and student contribution in this goal is the University-based project Transition Edinburgh University. Backed by £339,000 from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund, the project employs a team of six to roll out a programme of projects and initiatives designed to encourage the University's 36,500 staff and students to adapt their lifestyles at work and at home to reduce their carbon emissions.

Transition Edinburgh University facilitator, Ric Lander, explains: "Our ability to get out there and help people cut their CO₂ or start their own community projects is



4.5 tonnes

of CO₂ equivalent are wasted for every tonne of food we throw away (*The Food We Waste*, WRAP, 2008)

63%

of University waste arisings were recycled in 2008–09

1,147

schools and universities signed up to the 10:10 campaign (www.1010uk.org)

only limited to the time and imagination of our base of students and staff. We hope to successfully roll out exciting projects, and always need more help from the diverse University community."

Projects initiated by the Transition team include peer-learning courses; events engaging debate on climate change issues; and a green *Dragon's Den*.

Sandra Kinnear, Accommodation Manager and designated 'environmental champion' within Accommodation Services, has been working alongside Transition Edinburgh University on the Big Switch project, which has involved an energy-saving competition held at two student accommodation sites, increasing the availability of recycling facilities and

10:10 – what are you doing?

We asked selected teams and staff members what steps they're taking to help the University reduce its carbon footprint:

"I minimise air travel, and never ever fly when travelling within the UK. I live a mile away from King's Buildings and walk every day, come rain or shine; I don't own a car."

Dr Richard Milne,
Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences

"We recycle all items for which we have the facilities to do so and aim to be as environmentally aware as we can be."

Valery Cowan,
Chaplaincy

"We have had a lot of interest from staff on carbon-reduction initiatives, and they keep asking for updates. We communicate these through our intranet and team briefings and we have a specific place to update staff on projects."

Sandra Kinnear,
Accommodation Services

"I took on the role of green rep for the University and College Union [UCU] because I think everybody has a responsibility to look after the environment and try to reduce their carbon footprint. I don't have a great deal of experience in the field, I'm just a concerned citizen."

Janet Philp,
School of Biomedical Sciences

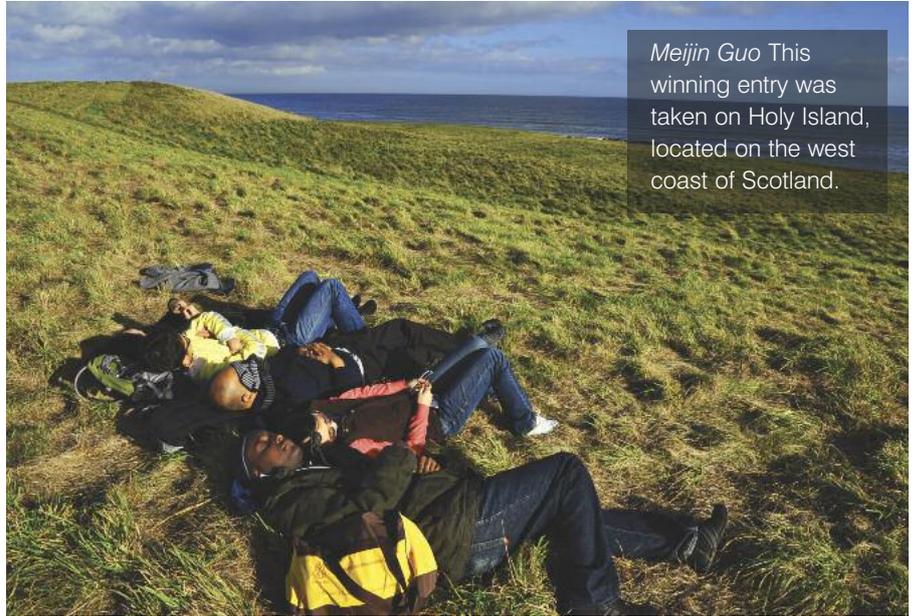
setting up a free shop offering discarded goods left behind by former residents.

Accommodation Services' involvement in initiatives like this is important, says Sandra, because it "teaches our students and staff lifelong skills in what they can do to keep our environment safe." She adds: "We have a responsibility as an employer to do our bit."

Ric comments: "What will the University of Edinburgh look like in 2020? What we're trying to ensure is that instead of being short of fuel and lagging behind, it is a happier, healthier, cleaner place. We can do this and are making our first steps this year by aiming for 10 per cent emissions reductions and we invite everyone to join in this effort."

A world view

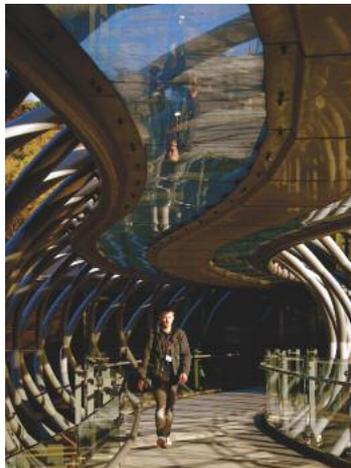
Last year, the International Office launched its first annual Global Horizons Photography Competition. The University's international students were invited to submit a photograph that best depicts their idea of Edinburgh as home. A total of 173 entries were received and the images sent in covered a broad range of interpretations of the theme. Selected entries, some of which can be seen here, were published in a celebratory calendar. The International Office's Global Horizons festival is an annual event that highlights, celebrates and promotes the diversity of our international student population.



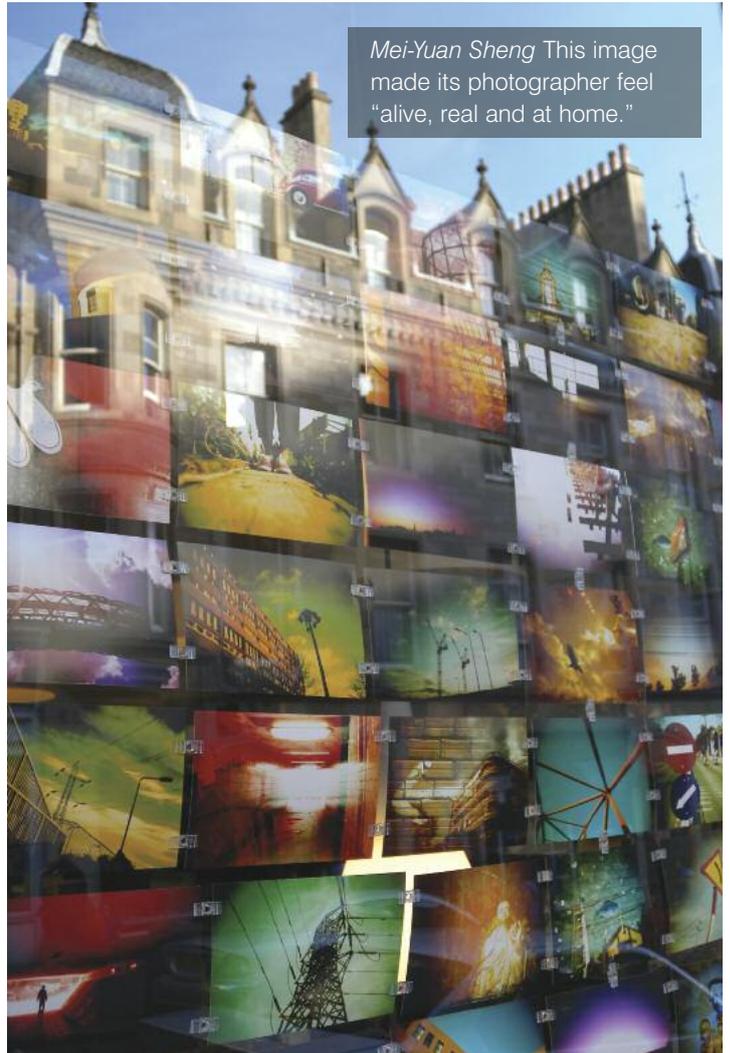
Meijin Guo This winning entry was taken on Holy Island, located on the west coast of Scotland.



Above: *Annedore Wilmes*
A spontaneous shot taken on the Meadows.

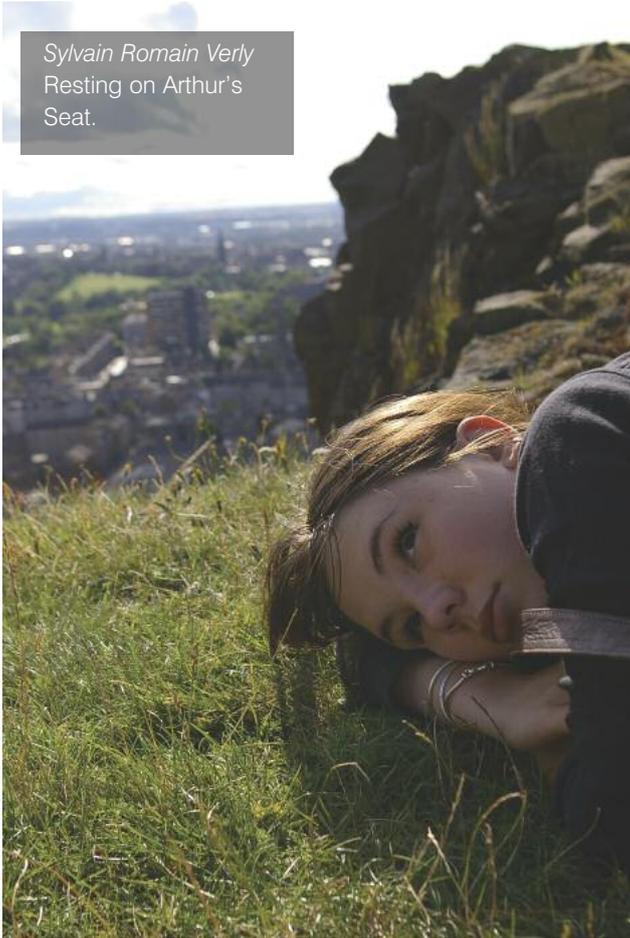


Right: *Jacob Stein*
The Leith Bridge, reflecting a modernising city.

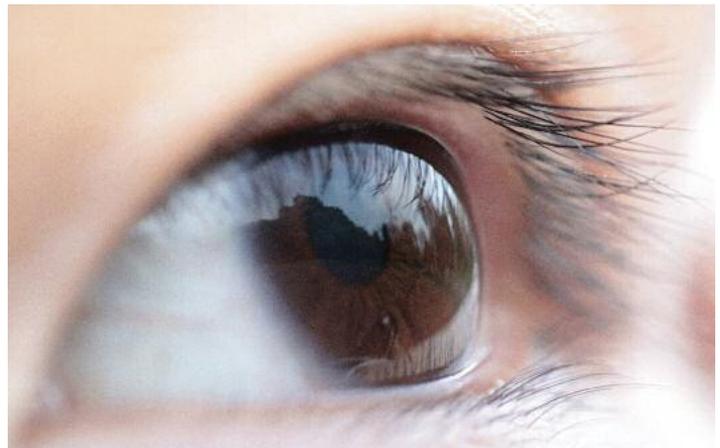


Mei-Yuan Sheng This image made its photographer feel "alive, real and at home."

Sylvain Romain Verly
Resting on Arthur's
Seat.

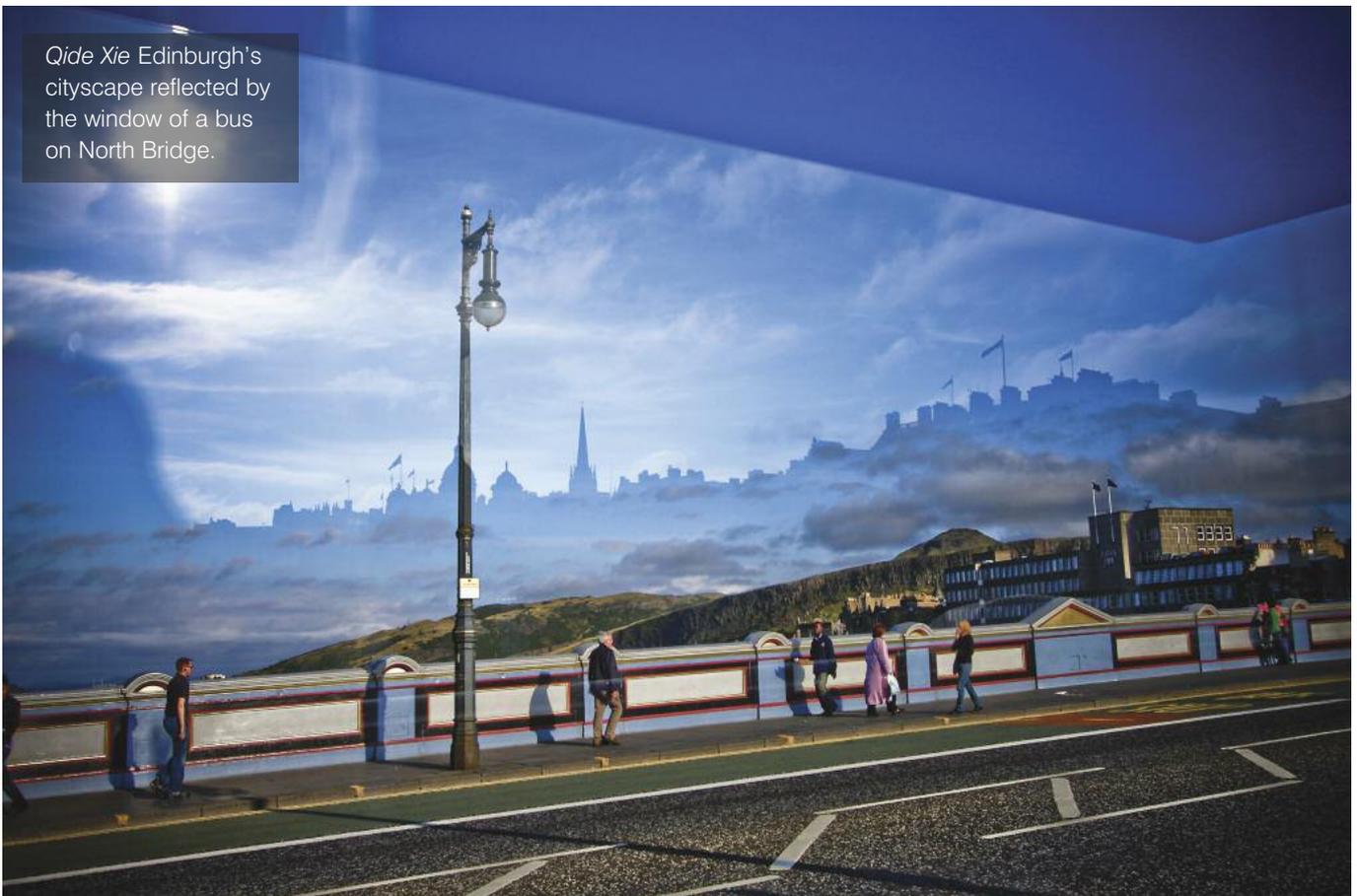


Ying Cui This silhouette of
the Edinburgh skyline was
awarded second prize.



Wenya Charmaine Chng The iconic image of Edinburgh
Castle is captured in the photographer's eye.

Qide Xie Edinburgh's
cityscape reflected by
the window of a bus
on North Bridge.



Hard to swallow: will reducing antidepressant prescriptions help sufferers of depressive illness?

As April's Mental Health Action Week focuses the spotlight on mental wellbeing, academics Dr Jen Smith-Merry (School of Social & Political Studies) and Professor Steve Platt (School of Community & Clinical Health Sciences) debate a Scottish Government policy that has polarised the healthcare profession and policymakers.

*Illustrations: Edden Wallace
Edden is a second-year illustration student from Edinburgh College of Art.*



Jen Smith-Merry

“Over-reliance on antidepressants as the sole treatment option can be problematic.”

Prescription levels of antidepressants in Scotland are very high. One in 10 Scots currently take antidepressant medication every day and between 1993 and 2009 the number of antidepressants prescribed more than tripled from 1.2 million items to 4.1 million items.

The Scottish Government has introduced a specific target for lowering the rate of antidepressant prescribing. The target aims to “reduce the annual rate of increase of defined daily dose per capita of antidepressants to zero by 2009/10 and put in place the required support framework to achieve a 10 per cent reduction in future years (2009/10)”.

The setting of this target is beneficial for two primary reasons – firstly, and most obviously, because it lowers the rate of inappropriate antidepressant prescribing, and secondly because it provides a focus for the creation of new knowledge about depression and its treatment in Scotland.

It needs to be stressed that in setting the target the Government is not stating that the use of antidepressants is wrong

across the board. Antidepressants are very appropriate for many people. However, what it does indicate is a desire to search for treatments for depression that are completely appropriate for an individual's needs.

There are a number of reasons for the setting of this target. In Scotland the levels of diagnosed depression (not levels of depression in the population) have risen significantly as a result of a campaign aiming to get GPs to recognise and address depression. This was a positive campaign aiming to deal with the high levels of undiagnosed and untreated depression in the community through offering rewards to GPs identifying those with depression. However, a side effect of this has been, in conjunction with other factors, a rise in the levels of antidepressants being prescribed.

When faced with a patient newly diagnosed with depression, GPs were reaching for the prescription pad and viewing antidepressants as the treatment of choice. Other types of treatment are not routinely offered. What the focus on lower antidepressant prescribing acknowledges is that for a significant

>> page 16



Steve Platt

“In spite of the health significance of major mood disorders, they are still under-referred, under-diagnosed and under-treated.”

The Government should not be aiming to reduce the total amount of antidepressant

prescribing, which could have unanticipated and undesirable consequences for the prevalence of major depression and suicide incidence at a time when adverse economic trends are likely to increase threats to mental health and wellbeing in the population.

Major mood disorders (both major depression and bipolar disorder) are among the most frequent and also the potentially most life-threatening psychiatric illnesses.

The lifetime prevalence of a major depressive episode is between 12–17 per cent and for bipolar disorder, 1.3–5.0 per cent.

Symptoms of depression include: feelings of sadness, hopelessness and despair; reduced interest and pleasure in normal activities; loss of appetite or weight; loss of sex drive; sleeping problems; constant fatigue; having difficulties concentrating; feeling guilty and worthless; and thoughts of suicide. In major depression most of

these symptoms are experienced, together with an inability to cope well with the demands of everyday life. Bipolar disorder is characterised by swings between extreme mood states of invincible elation and paralysing despair, and back again.

Major depression is an important risk factor for completed suicide. A review of findings from long-term follow-up studies of patients with a diagnosis of major depression or bipolar disorder found that the risk of completed suicide was 20 and 15 times higher, respectively, than the risk in the general population.

A recent meta-analysis of 28 reports, published between 1945 and 2001, including only patients with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, found that during an average 10 years of follow-up study their risk of suicide was 22 times higher than in the general population.

In spite of the great clinical and public health significance of major mood disorders, they are still under-referred, under-diagnosed and under-treated. More than 90 per cent of those who die of suicide have at least one (mostly untreated) major mental disorder.

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness analysed deaths by suicide in Scotland for the period of January 2000 to December 2005. Of the total of 5,054 suicide deaths, only 1,396 (28 per cent) were known to be in contact with mental health services in Scotland in the year before death. It is safe to assume that many Scots with a depressive disorder who died by suicide were not receiving relevant treatment, which might have alleviated their symptoms and therefore reduced their risk of suicide.

Given the strong association between suicide and depression, it is reasonable to hypothesise that the prescribing of antidepressant medication should be associated with reduced risk of suicide.

While it is impossible to confirm or disconfirm this hypothesis with any degree of certainty (there are formidable methodological problems that have to be tackled in this research area), there is some important research evidence in support of it. For example, a strong association has been found between an increase in prescribing of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI)

>> page 16



number of people accessing their GPs for depression, an antidepressant prescription may not be the most appropriate treatment option for them. Over-reliance on antidepressants as the sole treatment choice for depression is especially problematic for those experiencing mild to moderate depression where the evidence for the effectiveness of

antidepressants is not good. Among the alternative treatment options being emphasised currently in Scotland are talking and psychological therapies, exercise programmes, self help through journaling and online cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). These interventions have all been identified as effective through evidence from multiple peer-reviewed studies.

Reducing antidepressant prescribing may be a bad thing if it happens in isolation and leaves people without any treatment, but this initiative is merely a focal point within a wider policy targeting depression. It sits alongside initiatives that have aimed to provide greater access to a broader range of treatment options for target groups and across the population in general. Funding has also been provided to support and train new therapists in talking and psychological therapies and for research to broaden the evidence basis for emerging treatment options.

A benefit of the development of the target has been in the way it has worked to define a new area of government policy action – it concentrates efforts around depression in a way that would not happen without the target. Because a focus on lowering antidepressant prescriptions acknowledges that medication is not always the answer, it necessitates a creative approach to depression that opens up different treatment options. It disrupts the normal pattern of treatment and makes practitioners search for what really is the appropriate treatment path for their patient, which may in fact be the prescription of antidepressants, but might also be talking therapies or other lifestyle modifications.

For the Government, the target works to focus attention on the issue, generate new knowledge and thus expand the boundaries of what we know about the treatment of depression. The collection of new statistics on the use of antidepressants has allowed for a much greater understanding of how antidepressants are prescribed and used by the Scottish population. For example, research funded by the Government has found that the pattern of antidepressant prescribing by an individual Scottish GP is more dependent on their gender or ethnicity than on the level of depression in the community in which they work. The Government has also found that a large number of people who have been taking antidepressants for more than a year have not had their use of the medication reviewed. This means that they are not being offered the chance to come off their medication or pursue alternative treatment options. The setting of this target opens up possibilities for future work on depression that will draw on a much better understanding of the needs of the Scottish population.

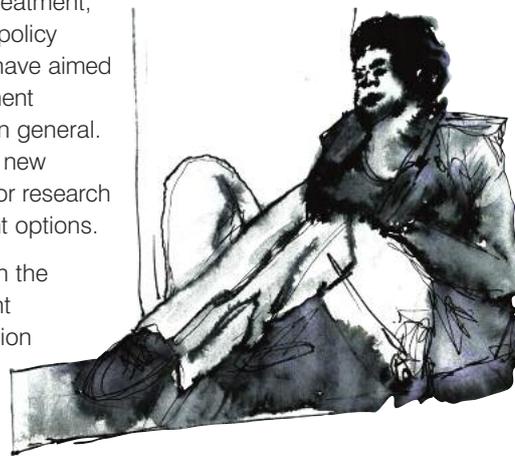
Jen Smith-Merry, Research Fellow
School of Social & Political Studies



antidepressants and a reduction of suicide in those over the age of 15 in 27 countries.

In another study 406 patients with mood disorders, with and without long-term medication, were followed up for 44 years. Whereas the risk of suicide among treated patients was nearly 12 times higher than in the general population, the risk of suicide among untreated patients was 38 times higher, a very significant difference.

However, not all research findings support the hypothesis. It has been suggested that there was only “mixed evidence” to substantiate the conclusion that the reduction in suicide in Nordic countries could definitely be attributed to the increase in antidepressant use.



There is also legitimate concern that antidepressant medications, particularly the SSRIs, could precipitate suicide in vulnerable persons, especially young people. This arose from the initial clinical report in 1990 of the emergence of suicidal behaviour in association with the antidepressant Fluoxetine. Since these initial concerns were

raised dozens of studies have been conducted. While results have been mixed, there does appear to be a consensus that suicidal thoughts and intentions (but not actual suicide) are increased in young people in association with antidepressant (especially SSRI) use. Information and warnings on patient guidance leaflets have been rewritten accordingly.

Additionally, we should not lose sight of the value of other treatments for depression, including ‘talking therapies’, such as cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), and non-psychological therapies, such as exercise, which should be made more widely available.

Notwithstanding these caveats, it is my view that the Scottish Government’s target of stabilising and then reducing the prescription and use of antidepressants is both simplistic and misguided. By itself, it does nothing to promote the use of alternative treatments. With regard to antidepressant prescribing to adults, efforts should be concentrated on ensuring that front-line health professionals, especially general practitioners, are trained to intervene appropriately (on the basis of the severity of symptoms and risk of suicide) and effectively (with a focus on early intervention, correct dosage and sufficient time for a therapeutic intervention to occur). 

Stephen Platt, Professor of Health Policy Research
Centre for Population Health Sciences
School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health

Mapping the universe

Dr Phil Clark on the University's role in an international quest to solve some of the greatest mysteries within particle physics.

Our understanding of the universe is encompassed in the Standard Model of Particle Physics, which has been confirmed precisely by experiments time and time again. However, one key piece to the puzzle is still missing and that is the mechanism by which the fundamental particles, the building blocks of matter, acquire mass.

Peter Higgs, Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Edinburgh, wrote in 1964 two key papers, which helped answer this question. Confirmation of his theory, however, requires discovery of a new fundamental particle, coined the Higgs boson.

Hopes of discovering this elusive particle were enhanced significantly when CERN started the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in 2008. Located beside the mountains, near Geneva, on the Swiss-French border, this 27-km ring of machinery collides two bunches of 100 billion protons, 40 million times per second.

Each proton is accelerated to within a whisker of the speed of light (99.9999991 per cent) requiring superconducting magnets to keep the protons on track. The LHC produced its first real proton collisions in November 2009. It is now the world's highest energy particle collider and the quest for the Higgs boson is well and truly under way.

Researchers involved in the ATLAS experiment, which is named so partly to reflect the vast scale of the experiment, both in its geometric size and its demography, will study these particle collisions, which will potentially offer many clues about the fundamental forces and particles that have shaped our universe.

Our bid to participate in ATLAS began in August 2008, when we visited the University of Glasgow, a long-term

member of ATLAS, to discuss the possibilities of participating in the project. We then secured the necessary resources and performed dedicated service work for the collaboration. On 9 October 2009, at the ATLAS meeting in Barcelona, the University of Edinburgh was finally accepted into the venture as full members.

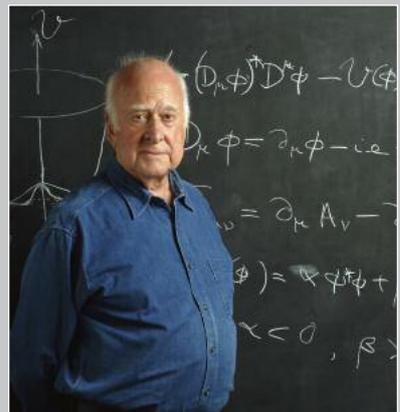
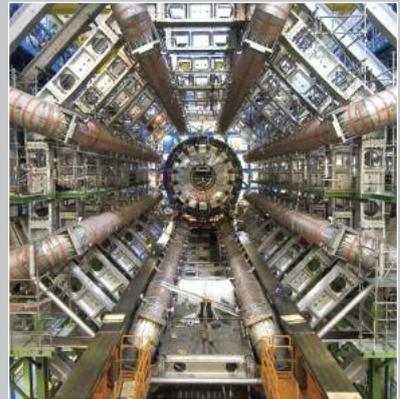
The aim of the LHC is to produce proton collisions at high enough energy to generate massive hitherto unobserved particles, which can then be measured and analysed by the ATLAS detector. At the collision point the 7,000-tonne detector records the aftermath of each collision.

To understand the data a wide variety of software is used. In particular, one program called GEANT4 is used to model and simulate the interactions the particles have with the detector. Our primary responsibility is supporting the use of this software by the entire ATLAS collaboration.

Experiments at the LHC will produce more than 15 million gigabytes of data every year, and to deal with the vast amounts of data we are designing new solutions for data storage across a worldwide computing grid. Within this data, our first priority will be to understand the 'underlying event' physics produced by the collisions, a first step before our hunt for the elusive Higgs boson, which will begin later in the summer.

What we will actually find remains to be seen. Exciting possibilities include the discovery of extra dimensions of space, microscopic black holes, or evidence for the yet undiscovered dark matter thought to exist in the universe.

After a long journey, the LHC and the Edinburgh physicists who work there, are entering truly unknown territory.



From top to bottom: the ATLAS detector at the LHC; excitement at the ATLAS control room as the LHC produces its first collisions; Professor Peter Higgs



people news

Staff honoured in University awards

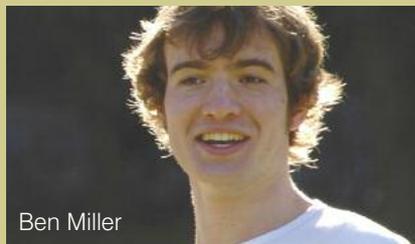
The 2009 winners of the University's staff-recognition awards, the Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science and the Principal's Medal, have been selected.

Chris Bishop, Professor of Computer Science, has received the Tam Dalyell Prize for his achievements in broadening access to scientific research. The computer scientist's public engagement activities include presenting the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in 2008, which were broadcast to almost five million viewers on TV channel Five.

The winner of the Principal's Medal has been named as graduate and Fairtrade campaigner Ben Miller. His involvement in both Fairtrade initiatives at the



Chris Bishop



Ben Miller

University and within the city of Edinburgh have played a role in helping Scotland to become one of the first Fairtrade nations.

Nominations for 2010

Both prizes are open for nominations for 2010. The closing date for nominations is 10 September.

Further information about the Principal's Medal is available from Jenny Buchanan, jenny.buchanan@ed.ac.uk.

Further information about the Tam Dalyell Prize is available from Deepthi de Silva Williams, depthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk.

Or visit www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin/principal-winner-110210.

Top for technology

A project proposal submitted by astronomer Dr Ben Panter has won the University the top £25,000 award in the Thales Scottish Technology Prize.

Dr Panter's winning submission uses technology that could potentially save the lives of soldiers and civilians in war zones.



Dr Ben Panter

His concept is to be applied to detecting roadside bombs, known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs). It uses a 'real-time' software filter to capture imagery of terrain observed from military aeroplanes at different times and perspectives.

Comparisons between these images highlight differences, such as disturbed earth, that could provide early warning of the presence of IEDs.

As well as earning the University first place in the competition, Dr Panter also won a personal prize worth £5,000.

A second entry from the University was also successful in the competition. A team from the School of Engineering, comprising Dr Sami Khawam, Mr Ioannis Nousias, Mr Mark Muir and Professor Tughrul Arslan, earned a finalist's prize.

Triumphs in life sciences

Several researchers connected with the University of Edinburgh were honoured in the annual Nexus awards, which celebrate achievements in life sciences in Scotland.

Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, the University's Director of the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, received the Lifetime Achievement Award (East).

Sir Ian's MRC colleague, Dr Keisuke Kaji, was also presented with a Nexus prize. He won the Young Life Scientist Award (East).

University spin-out Immunosolv was also recognised. Its Dead-Cert technology, which uses magnetic nanoparticles to remove dead and dying cells from laboratory cell populations without trauma to living cells, picked up the Award for Innovation (East).

Writer cycles Danube route

Author and creative writing lecturer Kevin MacNeil completed a gruelling 1,400-kilometre cycle alongside the River Danube in aid of two cancer charities.

On a fixed-gear, single-speed bike, he tackled distances of at least 100 kilometres most days, to raise money for Cancer Research and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The route began at the Danube's source at a spring in the Black Forest, and took Kevin through Bavaria, Austria, Slovakia, finishing in Budapest, Hungary.

The trip was filmed for a BBC documentary, scheduled to be broadcast this month, which also includes footage of Kevin's teaching work for the MSc in Creative Writing.



Kevin, who is a published author and poet, is working on a travel memoir about the project called *Two Wheels by the Danube*. His next novel, *A Method Actor's Guide to Jekyll and Hyde*, is set in Edinburgh and will be published later in the year.

And the BAFTA goes to...

A robotic project, driven by software designed by Professor Simon Kirby of the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, has received a BAFTA Scotland award.

Joining winners including actors Daniela Nardini, Robert Carlyle, Peter Capaldi and television producer Sir Jeremy Isaacs, Professor Kirby's Cybraphon project picked up the Scottish BAFTA in the interactive category.

Cybraphon is a robotic one-man band that hosts a collection of self-playing vintage musical instruments within a Victorian wardrobe.

The robot has profiles on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter and checks these every 15 minutes.

If Cybraphon feels popular it will play upbeat tunes and post happy messages to its online fans, but if online attention is dwindling it will react accordingly, sinking into depression.



Role play *

Name: Michael J Moore

Role: University Fire Safety Adviser

Department: Health and Safety (Fire Safety Unit)



What is your role at the University?

It's my job to make sure the University complies with all its legal and moral responsibilities with regard to the fire safety provisions made for its employees, students and visitors. I also ensure the University is appropriately represented in its dealings with statutory and other external bodies.

Why does the University need someone to do your job?

The University has a duty to provide comprehensive fire safety support for its staff and student community on all matters relating to compliance with fire safety legislation and codes of practice. Fire safety policy and arrangements need to be fully integrated within the University's Health and Safety Policy.

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

I had 32 years with Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service, so I am conversant with current fire safety legislation, standards and codes of practice, and fully equipped to develop strategies, programmes and training on fire safety matters and risk assessment. A high level of administrative and managerial skill is also required to be able to run the Fire Safety Unit.

What are the best elements of your job?

The fire safety field is so wide and varied it's difficult to pick out one element but applying a proactive approach to the planning and organising of all aspects of fire safety is very satisfying.

And the worst...?

A fire that has resulted from fire safety advice being ignored or not implemented.

In another life, what job would you do?

As a youngster I had a hankering for the veterinary profession or marine architecture, so perhaps one of those professions.

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

Dr Sula Wolff (1924–2009)



Dr Sula Wolff, Honorary Fellow of Psychiatry, was one of the founders of modern child psychiatry in post-war Britain, helping to bring a rigorous scientific engagement to augment clinical practice.

Sula studied medicine at the University of Oxford, and from 1947 to 1955 she held various appointments in Paediatrics at prestigious teaching hospitals in England. In 1955 she changed direction and began her training in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital London.

In 1962 she took up a post in Edinburgh where she began her long association with the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, first as Senior Registrar and, from 1966, as Consultant Child Psychiatrist, retiring from the NHS in 1984, to concentrate on her research.

It was from her base in Edinburgh at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children that she

undertook the greater part of her research, writing and clinical practice. She was the author of three highly influential books: *Children Under Stress*, which had two editions (1969 and 1981) and was frequently reprinted; *Childhood and Human Nature: the Development of Personality* (1989); and *Loners: the Life Path of Unusual Children* (1995).

She was widely recognised as an authority on childhood autism and Asperger's syndrome, and was one of a small group of psychiatrists who together set up the Child Psychiatry Research Society. She was the first psychiatrist to be awarded a Medical Research Council grant in the subject of child psychiatry.

Sula is survived by her husband Professor Henry Walton, and greatly missed by a wide circle of friends.

*Lorraine Waterhouse,
Professor of Social Work and
Vice-Principal Equality and Diversity*

Professor Walter Muir (1958–2009)



Walter Muir was born in Edinburgh on 13 February 1958 and died on 1 September 2009. He graduated with first-class honours in pharmacology in 1980, qualified MBChB from the University of Edinburgh in 1983 and trained in psychiatry at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, qualifying MRCPsych in 1987.

He was Senior Registrar in psychiatry in the MRC Brain Metabolism Unit before being awarded an MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship, which he held until his appointment in 1995 as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist (learning disability), NHS Lothian. He graduated DSc and was appointed to a Personal Chair in Developmental Psychiatry in 2009.

Walter's research was focussed on genetic risk factors underlying major mental disorders and his particular interest was the very disabled group of patients with learning disability co-morbid with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

He was one of the first to recognise the value of naturally occurring chromosomal abnormalities as signposts to the location of illness-related genes in psychiatry and he worked with a large database of chromosomal abnormalities. From this he identified several key individuals where chromosomal abnormalities were the most likely cause of psychiatric illness. His combination of clinical and laboratory skills underpinned the eventual discovery of several genes.

His sudden death was only a few months after he was awarded a Personal Chair.

*Douglas Blackwood,
Professor of Psychiatric Genetics,
with Dr Benjamin Pickard*

Peter Reginald Fisk (1929–2009)



After a long spell of poor health, Peter Fisk died on 2 October 2009, aged 80, just a few days after the death of his wife, Flora. He had served the University and the statistical profession in many ways.

Peter left school at 14 without formal qualifications but, following attendance at evening classes, he graduated from the London School of Economics in 1953 with a BSc in Economics. Two years later he joined the Department of Statistics at the University of Aberdeen. In 1962 he left for a senior lectureship at Australia's University of New South Wales, and in 1965 he moved to a similar position at the University of Birmingham.

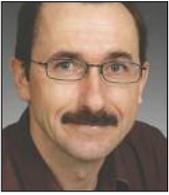
Peter arrived at the University of Edinburgh in 1967 to join the then recently formed Department of Statistics. He was a pillar of strength in both the teaching and organisation of courses. He was prepared to take on any tasks whether in classroom and examining, as a consultant providing statistical support to research in other disciplines.

In 1984, Peter became Head of the Department of Statistics, a position he held till his retirement in the summer of 1990, a year before the merger of the departments of Mathematics and Statistics to form what is now the School of Mathematics.

His own research interests ranged from the nature and construction of index numbers to the complexities of econometric theory. During the 1970s he was a member of the Statistics Committee for the Social Sciences Research Council (now ESRC) taking an interest in the application of statistics in the social sciences beyond the contribution he had made to econometrics.

*Colin Aitken, Professor of Forensic
Statistics, School of Mathematics*

Dr Thomas Binoth (1965–2010)



Dr Thomas Binoth died in an avalanche on 3 January 2010, while skiing in the Diemtigtal Valley, 25 miles south of Bern, Switzerland.

He was a Reader in Theoretical Particle Physics at the University of Edinburgh.

His death comes at a critical moment in the history of our understanding of physics at the smallest scales, the world of elementary particles and their interactions. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), constructed over the last decade at CERN in Geneva, is expected to discover the Higgs boson and the physics that underlies it. This project was the focus of Thomas's theoretical work.

Thomas was born on 16 August 1965 and grew up in Maulburg, Germany. He studied Physics at the University of Freiburg, writing a diploma thesis in 1993 on supersymmetric extensions of the Standard Model. In 1997 he proceeded

to a PhD on the non-perturbative effects in the Higgs sector of the Standard Model and beyond.

Following a series of postdoctoral posts, Thomas was appointed to a Lectureship at Edinburgh in 2005, and promoted to a Readership in 2009.

He was active in running the Particle Theory Group in Edinburgh, helped develop links between the theory and experimental groups in Edinburgh, and played an important part in paving the way for the recent entry of the experimental group into the ATLAS experiment at the LHC.

He leaves behind his partner and collaborator, Gudrun Heinrich, and a legacy of physics results and data analysis tools.

*Professor Richard Kenway,
Vice-Principal High Performance
Computing, Head of the School of
Physics & Astronomy*

Murray Clayton (1950–2009)



Murray Clayton was the Telephones Manager for the University for almost 20 years. He oversaw the installation and subsequent smooth running of the new

digital system, and most recently was managing the increasing use of internet telephony, VoIP. He died of cancer on 31 December.

When Murray left school he worked first for the *Scotsman* newspaper, in classified advertising, then spent 20 years in the airline servicing industry. He returned to education in 1987, first to gain Scotvec qualifications, and then to study computing through the Open University.

Murray spent a couple of years working in the Main Library, then left to join the family firm. He returned to the University in 1990 to join the Telephones Project. In January 1991 he was appointed to the newly created post of Telephones

Manager.

Murray built up a happy, tight-knit team of technical and switchboard staff. He was a caring manager who looked after his staff, with a fund of knowledge, experience and good stories from his past. He was completely dedicated to providing a top-quality service, and anyone in the team could contact him at any time, wherever he was, if something needed to be fixed. He always did his utmost to get problems resolved quickly.

Outside work, Murray was interested in amateur dramatics, acting with local companies, doing voiceovers on TV commercials, and appearing several times at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

We mourn the loss of a wise and thoughtful colleague, and extend our sympathies to Irene, Murray's widow.

*Brian Gilmore,
Head of IT Infrastructure*

Ian MacKenzie (1958–2009)



Ian MacKenzie, photographer at the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies, passed away at home on 20 December 2009.

Born in Inverness on 6 July, 1958, Ian grew up in a distillery cottage in the village of Tomatin.

Following Inverness High School, Ian obtained a diploma in Photography at Napier College and a masters at the Royal College of Art, London. A photography project in his home village was his first experience in ethnological documentation, leading to an exhibition at the Inverness Museum.

Ian joined Scottish Studies in 1985, where he remained until his untimely death. His duties included maintaining the website, curating the Photographic Archive, photographing and recording performers, events and mounting exhibitions.

Colleagues and students remember Ian MacKenzie as a self-effacing, unobtrusive facilitator of their work, who had a quiet sense of humour and tactful manner. He was a model teacher, commenting without any sense of superiority on the composition, light, and ethnological significance of his own work and that of others.

He wrote two novels and his short story *The Gift* was published in the literary magazine *Deliberately Thirsty*. A film script, *Single-track Road*, was short-listed by Tartan Shorts, and led to his final project, *ZenBends*.

Ian and his wife, recording artist Talitha MacKenzie, were a perfect match, her strong support ensuring Ian's vitality until the very end.

*Professor Donald E Meek,
Formerly of Celtic and Scottish Studies*

New chapters



bulletin talks to Edinburgh University Press head Timothy Wright about the business of books.

Solid teambuilding has been an important contributory factor in the success of Edinburgh University Press (EUP), says its Chief Executive Timothy Wright, who took leadership of the publishing house in 1998.

"I think it's important in business to let people make decisions, even if they turn out to be the wrong decisions and I've always been guided by that principle," reveals Timothy. "If you're responsible for 24 people you need to be a good delegator."

Many recent decisions made at EUP have evidently turned out to be the right course of action. The medium-sized publisher's trading figures at the end of 2009 were up 25 per cent year on year.

One project to contribute to that success was the completion of Sir Walter Scott's Waverley Novels. EUP led a team of researchers to correct more than 30,000 editorial errors found in the original set of novels, written in the early 19th century.

The 25-year project was finally finished towards the end of last year. And with the full 28-book set of *Edinburgh Editions* retailing at £1,800, Timothy is thrilled to finally launch it to the market.

Selling books is well-trodden territory for the EUP head. He began his career in Kent as a freelance agent offering books to the UK and European book trade on behalf of a variety of publishers. He then joined Longman – the then publishing division of the Pearson Group – as European Sales Manager, progressing to International Sales Manager before heading up the sales for the Group's Edinburgh-based medical publisher Churchill Livingstone.

Already settled in and enchanted by the city of Edinburgh, Timothy was appointed to his next role as Managing Director of Edinburgh University Press, not long after it had been spun out as a separate business, wholly owned by the University but financially independent.

One of Timothy's first tasks as Managing Director was to build a strong team, something he learnt to appreciate during his time with Pearson. "You need to have a good team of people around you who have potentially different skills from your own," he says. "You need a real mix, which is what we have, of experienced people and of new starts who are taking on their first publishing role."

Timothy supports his in-house team with a non-executive team of publishing professionals who, along with EUP's senior executives, form the Board of Management. Around five times a year, this board meets with the trustees who are appointed by the University Court.

Although the Press is very much a self-sufficient business, it remains a part of the University. Timothy explains: "The structure we have in the University is helpful to us because we're part of the Corporate Services Group. And although this is made up of quite diverse sections, four of those are also commercial businesses."

Further assistance is provided by the Press Committee, which embodies the academic relationship between the University and the Press by validating the academic standards of the books published.

Timothy's vision for the future is to steadily but cautiously build on the growth and success accumulated throughout his 12-year tenure. Both digital and international markets present interesting opportunities ahead, and the Press is positioned well in both areas.

"We have a big international presence in America with stockists in Singapore, Japan and Australia. On the digital side we are investing in new technologies in order to grow our e-book sales and have almost completed the digitisation of all our journals," Timothy says.

An interesting and diverse future lies ahead for both Timothy and EUP.



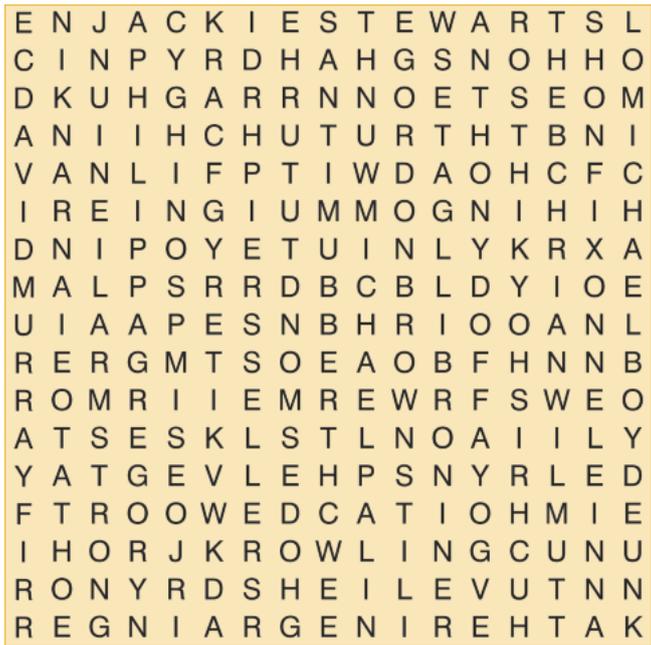
We are investing in new technologies in order to grow our e-book sales and have almost completed the digitisation of all our journals.

TIMOTHY WRIGHT: CV

- 1982: Freelance book sales rep, selling into UK and European markets
- 1985: European Sales Manager for Pearson/Longman, Harlow
- 1990: International Sales Manager for Pearson/Longman, Harlow
- 1994: Global Head of Sales at Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh
- 1998: Managing Director/Chief Executive of Edinburgh University Press

Word search

Try our word search challenge and you could win a mystery item from the University Visitor Centre. Hidden in the grid are 18 names of honorary graduates and Alumnus of the Year award recipients from 2000–2009. Return your completed puzzle along with your email address to our Forrest Hill address (p3) by 30 April. Correct entries will be placed in a prize draw. Only University staff are eligible to enter.



CLUES

1. Rower and Olympic silver medallist
2. Monty Python actor, presenter and broadcaster
3. Children’s author and Harry Potter creator
4. NASA astronaut and third Briton into space
5. Entrepreneur and former Rangers Football Club chairman
6. Mountaineer and author
7. First man on the moon
8. Cyclist and Olympic gold medallist
9. Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town
10. Crime writer and Rebus series creator
11. Eurythmics singer and human rights campaigner
12. Former international racing driver
13. Dolly the Sheep team leader
14. Microsoft founder
15. Best-selling historical fiction novelist
16. The Prime Minister
17. Art collector and dealer, and philanthropist
18. Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company

Previous winners: Jane Cooney, Estates and Buildings (Word Search) and Sarah Innes, Careers Service (Spot the Difference)

Viewpoint



Identify this University building or landmark and send your answer by email to bulletin@ed.ac.uk. The first correct response will win a mystery item from the University Visitor Centre. Only staff from the University of Edinburgh are eligible to enter.

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Showcase

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

Rare 16th-century violin

The Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments recently obtained (with National Fund for Acquisitions support) a rare 16th-century English violin, believed to have been made by a member of the Bassano family of London. It is one of only three English violins of this period to survive (the Collection has held one of the others since its inception in the 1840s).

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.