

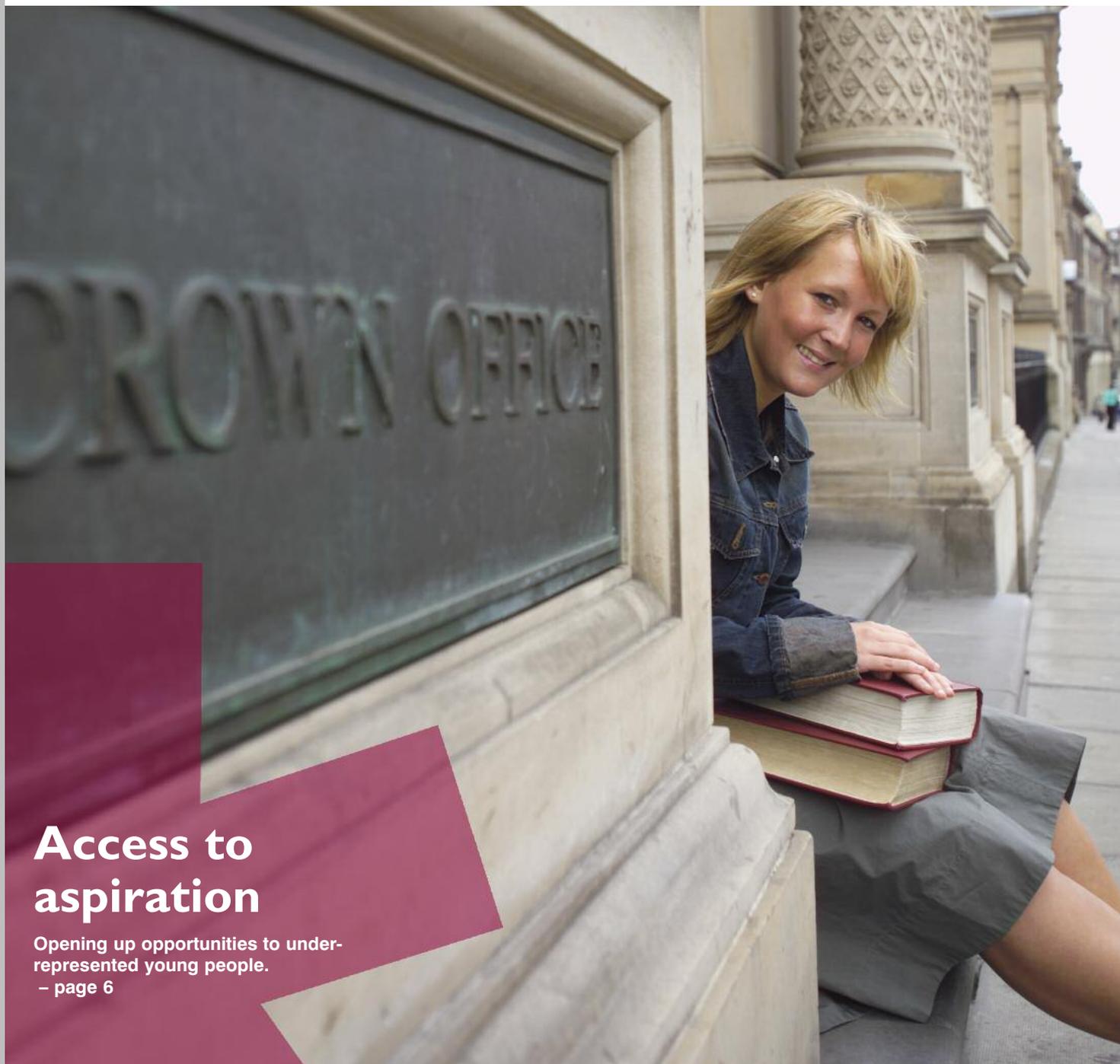


THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

bulletin*

AUTUMN 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE



Access to aspiration

Opening up opportunities to under-represented young people.
– page 6

Broadening horizons

Our Careers Service expands hopes for graduate recruitment – p10

Bookmarking the future

Exploring the University's Main Library, past to present – p12

Sailing into a moral storm?

The pros and cons of carbon emissions trading are thrashed out – p14

Competitions and noticeboard

Win a meal for two at Hotel du Vin or find a new place to live – page 22/23

bulletin*

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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SUBMISSION DETAILS

If you would like to submit an idea for an article, or tell us about some news or an event you wish to promote, please contact us at the email address above in advance of the next deadline. The spring edition of *bulletin* will be published in April, and the deadline for submissions is 15 January.

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

editorial

The role of supporting students is embedded into many of our jobs here at the University, and this edition of *bulletin* highlights two key services that do that to excellent standards.

The valuable work of our award-winning careers service is highlighted on pages 10–11. Newly appointed Director Shelagh Green talks about the challenges in helping students prepare for graduate careers during a recession.

At the other end of the student journey, we profile a widening participation project on pages 6–8. The University's innovative Pathways to the Professions scheme helps support local secondary school pupils develop and build on aspirations to follow professional careers.

Take some time out to enter our competition on page 22. You could win a meal for two at new Edinburgh bistro, Hotel du Vin by trying our Spot the Difference or Word Search puzzles.



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TWO COURSES, A BOTTLE OF HOUSE WINE & COFFEE FOR TWO.

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Research breaks revenue records

The University has this year earned record levels of investment in its pioneering work.

New figures show that the University was awarded £249 million to fund its research in 2008/09, 17 per cent more than the £212 million received in 2007/08.

The investment – won in competition with other universities and research centres – supports work across a range of disciplines, including medicine, veterinary medicine, science, engineering and the humanities.

The awards are made from a variety of sources, including government, industry, commerce and charities. Of the 1,064 awards, 41 were for more than £1 million. Sponsors from Scotland awarded 172 contracts, totalling £24.2 million.

Among the most significant research awards made are £4 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for research into high-performance computing, and £3 million from the Medical Research Council to establish a gene sequencing facility.

The University also filed a record 89 patents to protect new inventions by research staff, and 38 licence agreements to allow commercial use of technologies developed on campus.

Staff and students created a total of 26 new companies, the highest number formed in one year by a Scottish university.

And despite the difficult economic climate, the University also increased its income from consultancy work to a record £4.5 million, up



from £3.6 million in 2007/08. Of that figure, £1.7 million came from 143 contracts with Scottish organisations.

Derek Waddell, CEO of the University's research and commercialisation office, ERI, said: "These record figures are testament to the strength and depth of the University's research excellence. We are clearly maintaining our position as one of the leading research universities in the United Kingdom.

"Our excellent commercialisation figures, especially those for new company formations, are particularly pleasing. They demonstrate the vital role we are playing in fostering growth in the nation's economy as we transfer academic knowledge, skills, expertise and intellectual property into the wider community."

1,064

awards invested in the University's research in 2008/09

89

patents granted to protect new inventions by University research staff

26

new companies formed by the University's staff and students

41

research awards granted to the University for more than £1 million

University ranked in global top 20

The University has been listed as one of the top 20 universities in the world by the *Times Higher Education* – QS World Rankings 2009.

The global league, now in its sixth year, placed Edinburgh 20th, three places higher than last year's position.

The University's Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, said: "This is recognition not only of the University's performance, but also of the high standard of teaching and research that characterises Scottish higher education, and helps position Scotland as a leading

player in the new global knowledge economy."

American universities dominate the top 20, with Harvard University retaining the top spot.

Four other UK universities made the top 20. The University of Cambridge, University College London, Imperial College London and the University of Oxford were ranked second, fourth, and joint fifth respectively.

Scotland's three other ancient universities, the Universities of St Andrews, Glasgow and Aberdeen, were also included in the 200-strong league.



Pandemic flu update

Following summer outbreaks of the Pandemic Flu strain H1N1, also known as swine flu, the University has prepared a series of contingency plans, policies and procedures should a second wave of the illness occur.

These preparations have been developed by the University's Pandemic Flu Executive Group, which has been monitoring and responding to swine flu developments throughout the summer.

Staff are advised to follow general advice provided by the Scottish Government, the Health Protection Agency, the World Health Organisation and the Foreign Commonwealth Office.

For more information on the background to the pandemic, guidance on avoiding colds and flu, and related health and safety or human resources issues visit: www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/staff/pandemic-flu.

Awards for academic innovators

Four staff members were named as Chancellor's Award winners at this year's Chancellor's Dinner.

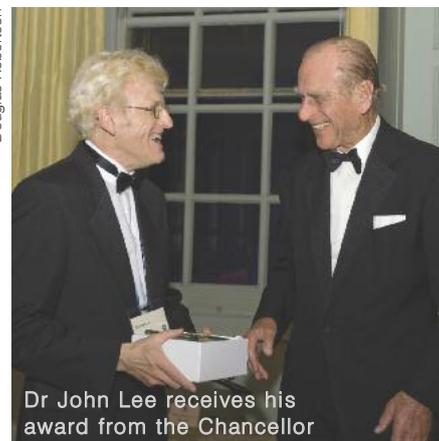
The Chancellor, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, presented Professors Harry Campbell and Malcolm Dunlop with the Research Award and Dr John Lee with the Teaching Award at the event. Dr Giles Hardingham was the recipient of the Rising Star Award.

The Awards, now in their fifth year, are presented in recognition of innovation, relevance, creativity and personal dedication.

Professors Campbell and Dunlop of the School of Molecular & Clinical Medicine were jointly awarded for their research into genetic susceptibility to colorectal cancer. The impact of their research will be reflected in screening, disease prevention, disease stratification and personalised treatment.

Dr John Lee, who works within the Schools of Informatics and Arts, Culture and Environment, was recognised for his innovative contribution

Douglas Robertson



Dr John Lee receives his award from the Chancellor

to teaching. Dr Lee has led the development of a system known as 'YouTute', a new learning resource that makes video recordings of tutorial discussions available to students.

Dr Giles Hardingham of the School of Biomedical Sciences was honoured for his research achievements and potential. For a profile of Dr Hardingham, turn to p20.

University joins national carbon cutting initiative

The University has signed up to a nationwide drive to cut carbon emissions by 10 per cent by 2010.

Joining a wide range of organisations from around the UK, the University has committed to the 10:10 initiative launched in September.

Signing up to 10:10 is just one element of the University's efforts to advance social responsibility and sustainability.

The University's Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Group has embarked on drafting a Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy outlining plans in this area up until 2020.

The Group is convened by Vice-Principal for Research Training and Community Relations, Professor Mary Bownes who will also be taking a lead in the University's role in 10:10.

She says: "We have invested heavily in energy efficiency projects, and will continue to do so; but our most valuable resource – our staff and students – need to engage with this issue too."

A series of workshops were held on 1 October for staff and students who wish to explore ways to reduce our carbon footprint at work.

Peter Tuffly



Women's Day lecture series launches

The University is launching a new lecture series to commemorate International Women's Day.

The lecture will take place annually on 8 March. Well-known women who lead in their field will be invited to deliver a talk on an issue related to gender equality.

Harriet Lamb CBE, Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation, has been announced as the speaker for the first lecture for 2010. The event will be chaired by journalist and University alumna Sheena MacDonald.

Lamb, the published author of *Fighting the Banana Wars and Other Fairtrade Battles* (Rider 2008), has been at the head of the Fairtrade Foundation since 2001.

Prior to that she led the campaigning work of the World Development Movement and campaigned for a minimum wage in Britain.

International Women's Day has been celebrated since the early 1900s to recognise the economic, political and social achievements of women.



Building boost for University

A new custom-designed building has been opened at the University's King's Buildings campus.

The Waddington Building (above left) will house the Centre for Systems Biology Edinburgh (CSBE), where some 62 researchers will combine expertise in maths and computer modelling to tackle some of the biggest challenges in biology.

The new £7.2 million building is one of six UK university sites dedicated to this emerging field.

Dr Elizabeth Elliot, CSBE Centre Manager, said: "We are delighted to open this building, which brings together world-class researchers

in a purpose-built space, improving our research facilities and promoting collaboration. This reaffirms the University's place at the forefront of systems biology research."

Potterrow named best workplace

The University's Potterrow Development (above right) has won a British Council award for best workplace. It came first in the national category for Best Corporate Workplace in the British Council for Offices Awards. This adds to the slew of awards bestowed upon the building project since it was completed in 2008.

New drinking water policy cuts costs

A new policy for drinking water will save the University thousands of pounds a year and benefit the environment.

The policy promotes drinking tap water instead of water from bottles or coolers. As a result, all free-standing coolers have been removed from University premises, saving the University an estimated £80,000 a year.

The use of water coolers has also been shown to be environmentally unfriendly. Continued use of these devices is not in line with the University's sustainability efforts.

Estates and Buildings upgraded all cold-water storage facilities across the estate from 1997–2003. Also, this year, an independent water quality consultant carried out reviews to establish that drinking water from mains sources meets statutory requirements.

In cases where a supply of chilled water is regarded as essential, a plumbed-in water dispenser may be requested. Installation of these will be undertaken only after consultation with Estates and Buildings.

A year's provision of free-standing water coolers =

- Approximately **2** lecturers for one year
- **80** accommodation bursaries
- Fees for **15** postgraduate taught students for one year
- **160** personal computers
- **17** library shelving systems
- Full-time childcare funding for **8** staff or students for one year
- One year's membership to the Centre for Sports and Exercise for **512** members of staff

research news in brief...

A BALANCED FACE AIDS AGEING

The more symmetrical a man's face the better he is likely to age, says a University study. Edinburgh psychologists found that men with higher levels of facial symmetry are less likely to experience a slow down of brain power between the ages of 79 and 83. Using results from the 1932 Scottish Mental Survey, the research team measured the facial symmetry of a sample of men and women and related this to the subjects' performance in reasoning and reaction-time tests. The findings indicate that facial symmetry may be a reflection of developmental stability in a man's body as it shows the person may have been subject to fewer genetic and environmental disturbances such as diseases, toxins, malnutrition or genetic mutations during his development.

DIABETES LINK TO EARLY BIRTH

University scientists have identified a seven-fold increase in premature births where the mothers were diabetic before becoming pregnant. The research, which analysed data relating to nearly 90,000 births in Scotland between 1980 and 2005, also uncovered a link between gestational diabetes and premature labour. Professor Jane Norman, Director of the Tommy's Centre for Maternal and Fetal Health Research at the University, said: "The increase in diabetes as a factor in premature births is interesting and may be because there are more women with pre-existing diabetes, which is linked to obesity, as well as better diagnosis of expectant mothers with gestational diabetes."

FAT STORAGE ANSWERS IN PROTEIN

University research has uncovered a protein found present in all cells in the body that could help scientists better understand how we store fat. Researchers have found that the protein invadolisyn, which is essential for healthy cell division, is present in lipid droplets – the part of the cells used to store fat. The study also found that lower levels of invadolisyn were linked to reduced amounts of fat deposits. Professor Margarete Heck, at the University's Centre for Cardiovascular Science, said: "The presence of this protein in lipid droplets may suggest that it has a role in obesity. What we would like to understand is whether its presence is related to obesity, and if so, whether the protein's activity aggravates obesity and its consequences. Understanding its role will help us to better understand how the body stores fat."

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

NHS
LothianThe University of Edinburgh
Gonsort HealthcareGonsort
Healthcare

WAY OUT

WAY IN

The University of Edinburgh's Pathways to the Professions has been opening access to the professions since 2001. A government report praised the project for its role in advancing social mobility.

bulletin investigates.



Main image: Scott James at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Photography: Stewart Bremner.

feature Access to aspiration

First-year medical student Scott James (pictured above) first wanted to become a doctor at the age of 12. Six years later, entering into the buzz of Freshers' Week, he is edging closer to realising that dream.

Like all his fellow freshers, Scott has worked hard to earn his place on the competitive Medicine programme at the University of Edinburgh, achieving a stellar set of SQA Higher results.

He attended Deans Community High School in West Lothian, which has a low progression

rate into higher education. The 18-year-old was one of three applicants to Medicine from his school year, but the only one to achieve the required grades to secure a place.

Bright, hardworking young people, like Scott, who attend state schools with scant record in sending pupils to university, have been identified by a new government report as an untapped pool of potentially skilled professionals.

The report, *Unleashing Aspiration*, compiled by the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions,

highlighted that large percentages of those working in the professions such as law and medicine have received a private education, even though only seven per cent of people in the UK have attended school in the private sector.

The report concludes that change is imperative. It states that access to the professions must be opened up to represent a broader pool of society, creating avenues for the professions to access fresh talent as well as improving opportunities for young people from lower

socioeconomic groupings. Much of the work has to start at the university admissions stage, if not earlier.

The University of Edinburgh's Pathways to the Professions scheme, initiated in 2001 with funding from education charity the Sutton Trust, was highlighted in the report as an example of good practice in supporting state school pupils into degree programmes related to the professions. It is now being held up as template for similar programmes across the higher education sector, with five Russell Group universities rolling out replica models for law.

I wanted to give myself as good a chance as possible, and signed up for as many of the events on offer as I could.

Scott James

The University's Widening Participation Manager Kathleen Hood, who has led the scheme from the start and was involved in advising the Panel on Fair Access, says: "I hope the report findings will encourage the professions to increase the diversity of backgrounds to their benefit by engaging with university projects like Pathways. The project is now recognised as a robust model, which has significant outcomes not only for students taking part both as school pupils and undergraduates; but also for the professions themselves."

Targeted at fourth- to sixth-year school pupils based within Edinburgh and the Lothians, Pathways to the Professions seeks to encourage under-represented youngsters to consider and work towards careers in the professions – specifically Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and the recently added Architecture.

The scheme operates two strands: Pathways is open to anyone who attends one of the 46 state schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians, and the accompanying Pathways Plus specifically targets individuals who could be the first in their family to attend university.

Targeting the latter group is crucial. The *Unleashing Aspiration* report shows that the educational background of parents is a key influencer in the ambitions of their children. In fact, three times as many young people with parents who attended university will progress into higher education than those whose parents didn't.

Students enrolled on either programme have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities and events designed to evoke interest in professional careers they may not have previously considered, build confidence and provide support for making strong applications to these areas. Pathways Plus students receive more customised individual support.

For aspiring medic Scott James, participating in Pathways helped motivate him to achieve the grades he needed to pursue his medical ambition.

"I wanted to give myself as good a chance as possible, and signed up for as many of the events on offer as I could," he says. "I undertook work experience at the Western General Hospital, visited the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, attended the University's Medical School's inaugural lectures, and got support for my Chemistry and Biology studies from staff at King's Buildings," he says.

Scott also benefited from the Pathways mentoring service, receiving guidance from former Deans Community High pupil Callum Gillespie, who is in his third year of Medicine at the University, having also taken part in the scheme.

Callum, who was the first in his family to consider university, was this year rewarded with the Sir William Darling Memorial Prize for his continued involvement and contribution to the Pathways initiative, as well as his support

>> page 8

Pathways to the Professions: a snapshot

Young people can enroll for Pathways to the Professions in Law, Architecture, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine and can register for more than one subject simultaneously. Those registered for the scheme will have access to support and activities including:

- 'So you want to be a ...' careers days
- work observation opportunities
- subject-specific workshops
- access to University lectures and symposiums
- science study support
- parents information sessions
- individual pre-application support
- mentoring and post application support
- access bursaries

Numbercrunching

- More than **2,500** school pupils have engaged with Pathways to the Professions since it began in 2001.
- **166** Pathways participants have taken up Law undergraduate places at the University of Edinburgh since the scheme started.
- **95** students registered with Pathways have gone on to study Medicine at the University of Edinburgh since the project's inception.
- During the academic year 2008/9, Pathways reported **550** registrations across all four subject areas.
- Within two years of Veterinary Medicine being added to the project, the subject increased applications by **166%**.



Veterinary Medicine was introduced as a subject strand to the Pathways scheme in 2005. School pupils enrolled for Veterinary Medicine have the opportunity to embark upon some work experience at a local farm.

Pathways lifts aspiration in the community because often the students emerge from the scheme as local role models.

– Mary Bownes



Local hero: Callum Gillespie mentors Scott James

of the University's fundraising campaign for access bursaries – a crucial element of the Pathways project.

Student success stories like Callum, represent the culmination of a process of nurturing and support, from pre-application right through to graduation and first jobs. Many of the Pathways participants recognise the value of the initiative and give back by offering support, advice and mentoring to their successors.

Lindsay Kelly, Widening Participation Officer in the School of Law, testifies to this: "Often those who come in through the Pathways route are keen to come back as mentors or student ambassadors later on. They are often keen to give back."

Lindsay, who holds the only School-specific widening participation role in the University, is responsible for facilitating all the law activities under the Pathways umbrella.

Her role also involves maintaining relationships with the law firms and professional bodies who are "paramount to the success of the initiative". There are 40 law firms, as well as several key national bodies involved with Pathway's law strand.

Liz Campbell, Director of the Law Society of Scotland, says: "The route to qualification for solicitors can last up to seven years, and can be a daunting prospect for young people. A variety of formats are used by Pathways to the Professions to give young people an insight into the professions and the relationship often continues into the law degree.

"The Society has statistics that demonstrate that by 2011, the average solicitor in Scotland will be female, under 30 and educated in a state school, and therefore we are pleased to see a project like Pathways continue to grow like it has since its inception. The Project has led to a marked increase in applications for Law."

Vice-Principal for Research Training and Community Relations, Professor Mary Bownes, who chairs the steering committee for Pathways to the Professions, acknowledges this vital input from the professions involved: "One of the best parts of Pathways is the full engagement and partnership of the professions themselves and the unstinting time they give both on our advisory group and in showing these young people what it is really like to be a lawyer, a doctor or vet or an architect.

"This process then lifts aspiration in the community because often the students emerge from the scheme as local role models and contribute to increasing the diversity of professionals."

Working with young people, parents, local schools, employers and professional bodies, Pathways to the Professions is an initiative that engages with and benefits many facets of the community. With regular increases in annual registration to Pathways, the University is helping to produce many role models working in the professions who can inspire future generations to abandon social barriers at the bar, bedside, boardroom and beyond. ✱

Pathways success stories

Callum Gillespie

Third-year Medicine, The University of Edinburgh

Callum was the only person in his school year at Deans Community High School, West Lothian, to apply for Medicine. With support from Pathways to the Professions, he was accepted onto the University of Edinburgh's Medicine degree programme and became the first person in his family to go to university. At Edinburgh, Callum has gone from strength to strength and this year he was jointly awarded the Sir William Darling Memorial Prize, with two others, for his contribution to further the positive reputation of the University. Callum says: "As I attended more of the Pathways events, I began to feel more at home with the University environment and this gave me real confidence when applying. People ask why I chose to come to Edinburgh and for me it wasn't just the prestigious reputation of the Medicine degree, it was the fact I already felt a part of the University in some small way."



Rothna Shah

Law graduate, The University of Edinburgh

Rothna Shah heard about Pathways to the Professions when the team visited her secondary school. "The presentation was fun and lively, and the scheme included law, which I was considering a future career in," she recalls. Rothna enrolled in the scheme and found the organised activities and workshops useful in supporting her application to the University, and indeed gaining an insight into the profession. She says: "I was able to increase my understanding of the legal world and able to perceive studying law [and ultimately qualifying as a lawyer] as a realistic possibility, rather than a distant ambition." She also found the networking opportunities invaluable. "I was given links to mentors and tutors every time I needed advice and information. I also gained some very useful lawyer contacts," she adds. Rothna graduated with a 2:1 and is working towards the Bar Vocational Course.



An integrative approach

When a stress audit revealed that the Centre of Integrative Physiology needed to work better as a team, the Centre staff took the findings to heart and have been working hard ever since to foster a happy, healthy, collaborative workplace. *bulletin* meets the team.



The very concept of teambuilding can send shudders down the spines of an office full of professionals. Compulsory away days white-water rafting or clay pigeon shooting aren't everyone's idea of social heaven, but the University's Centre for Integrative Physiology, based within the School of Biomedical Sciences, places group activity at the heart of its working culture and reaps the rewards.

Walk into the light, airy reception area at the Hugh Robson Building, home of the Centre of Integrative Physiology, at George Square, and you are immediately given a friendly welcome by one of the Centre's two receptionists Anne Rush or Nicola White. Each can be counted on to know everyone's name contributing to the inclusive culture embedded within the Centre's core.

Upstairs, a positive spirit exudes from the open and inviting staffroom. Groups of employees are sitting together, interacting and engaged. A plasma screen broadcasts images chosen by the Centre's staff social club and the kitchen area is decorated by personally painted tiles, which each represent a research or administrative team.

There is plenty of activity going on in the Centre to help foster this positivity among the workforce. Lunchtime yoga at the on-site gym, access to free reflexology treatments, smoothie days and charity coffee mornings are just some of the perks available to help encourage staff members to be involved, included and to stay in good health.

A need for change

But it hasn't always been this way, according to Janet Philp, School Technical Services Manager, who has been employed at the University since 1996, and with the Centre since its conception. Janet is very much at the helm of staff interaction and wellbeing at the Hugh Robson Building. In 2004, while the building was being renovated, it was decided that the Centre should work towards the then Scottish Health at Work Award (SHAW), in

order to boost staff morale during the potential disruption. The Centre quickly achieved the bronze and silver awards, and succeeded this with gold in January 2005, an accreditation it has retained ever since.

To earn gold SHAW status, Janet and colleagues needed to inform staff of health issues, mark national health events and promote healthy and active lifestyles. In collaboration with Napier University they invited trainee nurses to carry out free health checks for all staff.

They also organised a stress audit, which highlighted that greater integration was required in order to break down cliques and create a more positive working environment.

To address this, an informal monthly 'beer and pizza' gathering was arranged, and subsequent social and charity events mushroomed from there. Many of the activities are facilitated by the staff social club and anyone can volunteer to suggest or organise an outing or event.

An inclusive culture

Take-up among the staff base is strong and most activities unite people across grades, and the collective effort is working. The second stress audit carried out only last year to measure progress confirmed the success. "We improved on everything," Janet says. "The stress audit showed that we had completely turned our previous problems around."

Ann Diment, the Centre's Health and Safety Manager, comments: "Integration is important. I work by myself, but here you don't feel isolated because you're part of a group. In Janet's yoga class, you'll find a professor sitting next to a research technician. People can come to activities where there's no social status and it helps break down barriers."

Inclusivity is embedded into the working environment, and there are plenty of

People can come to activities where there's no social status and it helps break down barriers

Ann Diment

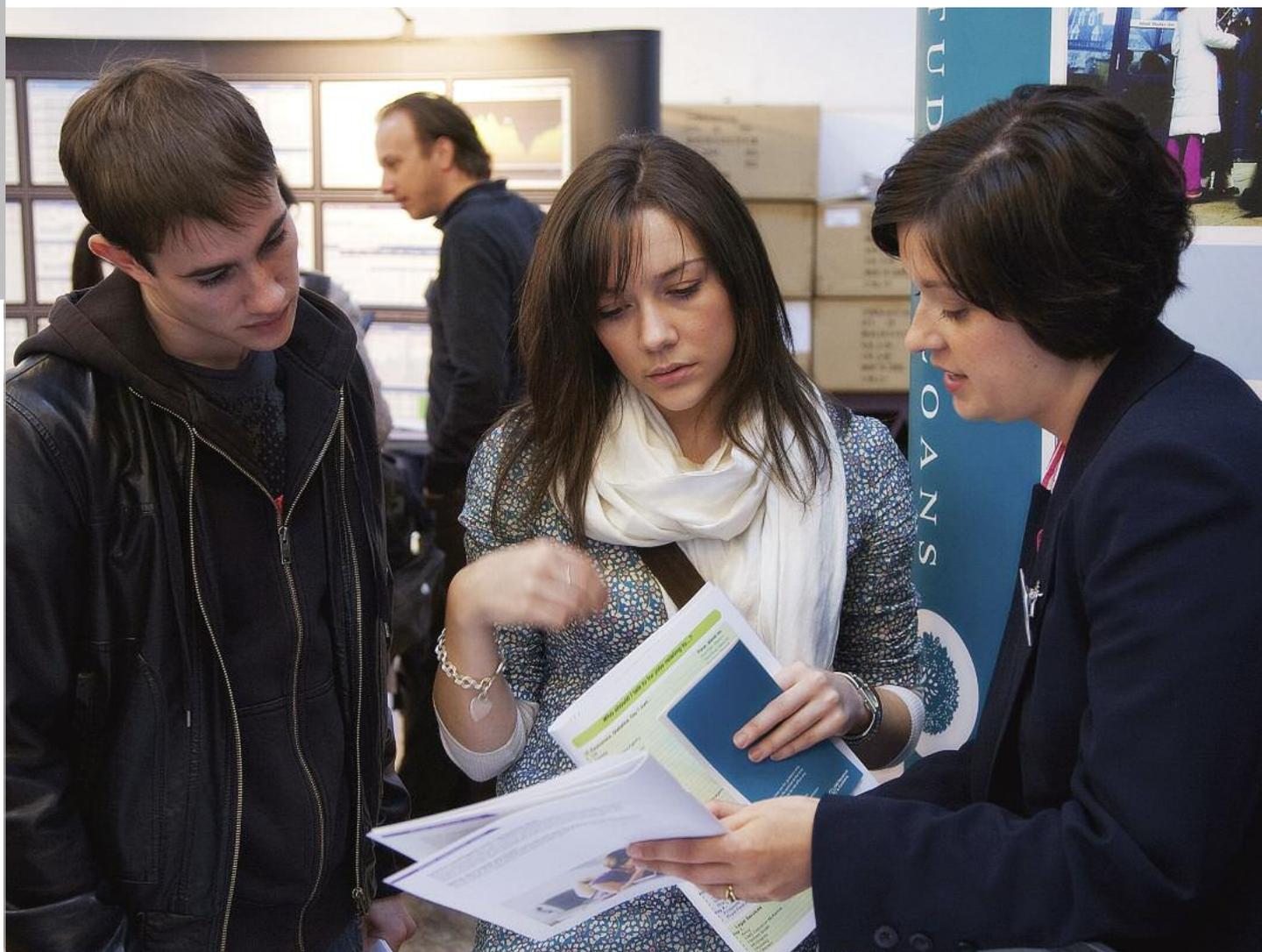
opportunities to celebrate other cultures. Chinese New Year is marked annually. The Chinese staff community bring in food to share, talk to colleagues about their culture and teach them how to write their names in Chinese characters. During Diwali, the Centre also puts out Indian sweets at the reception area.

Imagination and enthusiasm

One focal point for staff integration is the in-house gym, which was set up using funds generated by a suppliers' exhibition. This, like many of the Centre's staff welfare innovations, was Janet's idea. She explains: "Twice a year, suppliers will come in and set up stands to promote their services. They will donate money to the Centre to do this, and that money is to be used for the good of the staff."

Janet acknowledges that two key factors in the Centre's success are having space and funding, but is quick to point out that many of the resources to enable team activities have been self generated.

Plus, there are plenty of perks, that can be sourced with little or no costs and just a bit of imagination and enthusiasm. Qualities that can be found in abundance at the Centre. ✦



Images: Adam House careers fair. Photography: Stewart Bremner.

feature **Broadening horizons**

As the media paints a bleak picture for graduate recruitment, the team at the Careers Service has been working hard to maintain strong job prospects for our students.

Ronald Kerr reports

It would be easy to think that Careers Service director Shelagh Green had never had it so bad. Having been part of the Service during 10 years of economic growth, she took the helm earlier this year as one of the worst recessions in living memory started to take its toll.

Yet Shelagh retains an optimistic outlook as Edinburgh graduates potentially face the most uncertain employment prospects in more than a decade.

Her confidence is well founded; based on evidence that Edinburgh alumni are still highly prized by employers. It is also buoyed by the efforts of her team, which has worked hard to strengthen its ties with graduate recruiters.

The hard work put in by the Service's Employer Relations team was rewarded at this year's careers fair at Adam House, which was full to the brim with exhibiting companies.

Staff have been encouraged by the presence of several large investment banks and consultancies, in spite of the downturn. Regular attendees such as financial services giant Citi, global investment bankers Goldman Sachs and management consulting firm McKinsey are among those making a return.

Efforts to attract new exhibitors have paid handsome dividends, with integrated energy companies Centrica and Conoco Phillips, consulting and business services group Mouchel, consultants Mott MacDonald and

auctioneers Sotheby's all making presentations for the first time.

The annual law fair was also full to capacity with firms such as Pinsent Masons, Brodies, DLA Piper and Shepherd and Wedderburn among those exhibiting during a difficult year for the sector.

Such a stellar line-up of exhibitors is invaluable to Shelagh, who seeks to meet a key objective this autumn – to counteract any mood of despair that might pervade the campus as students look towards the world of work.

Says Shelagh: "The Association of Graduate Recruiters reported a fall in the number of its advertised vacancies this summer for the first time since 2003. These are undoubtedly challenging times but we have managed to maintain our levels through sheer hard work and we feel it is important to get out a positive message which counteracts some of the doom and gloom."

Employers are keen to support this message. Oil corporation Shell was reported as saying it was committed to hiring approximately 100 graduates next year – roughly the same number as this year and last.

Shelagh's second objective is equally challenging – to guard against complacency among students, who feel that Edinburgh graduates are somehow immune to the throes of recession.

She explains: "We are trying to build employability into the teaching and learning experience and we want to see students become curious about careers early in their university life. They have to be more proactive and flexible than ever before, but we have had lots of positive feedback from employers saying they have found our students to be more focused in that respect."

Shelagh is also keen to speak to teaching staff who want to support their students' career development, and help is at hand to ensure that students submit quality job applications.

A series of workshops and drop-in sessions has been organised to guide students through the recruitment process, which includes provision for honing all-important skills such as drafting CVs and completing application forms.

Paradoxically, for a period of hardship, this is also a time of unprecedented opportunity. In support of the University's internationalisation strategy, the service is striving to make more opportunities overseas available to Edinburgh students.

A virtual jobs fair – organised jointly with the Universities of Glasgow and St Andrews in



“These are undoubtedly challenging times but we have managed to maintain our levels through sheer hard work.”



November – will promote career opportunities for Scottish graduates in China.

It is a reminder of the broadening horizons on which many Edinburgh alumni will set their sights, but helping students to fulfil their potential is a two-way process.

For students coming to Edinburgh from overseas, support and advice is at hand as they seek work to support their studies.

The SAGE (Student and Graduate Employment) team helps overseas students who are without a National Insurance number, and provides support to students who, having secured work, subsequently encounter difficulties organising payment details.

One overseas student to benefit from the Service's support was Artificial Intelligence graduate Michal Bartosik, from Poland, who won the International Student Employee of the Year Award.

The award, given by the National Association of Student Employment Services, recognised

Michal's exceptional achievement in combining part-time work with his studies.

Michal was nominated for the award by Crocodile Clips, an Edinburgh educational software development company, where he worked part-time during his final year. His help in translating software into other languages had been particularly valued.

Casual or part-time employment plays an important role in the lives of overseas – and home-based – students, but Michal's experience shows that not all work is found in the familiar realms of pubs and restaurants.

Students get help in accessing a surprisingly wide variety of jobs – among them website and wiki design, tutoring and translating. It is crucial not just in supporting their studies, but also in helping them find permanent jobs once they leave the lecture hall behind.

And that, thanks to the efforts of Shelagh and her team, may not be the daunting task that many had feared. ✦

Bookmarking the future

For more than four centuries, the University of Edinburgh's Main Library has been an invaluable resource for scholars, academics and members of the wider community. The University has transformed its library significantly throughout the years. It created the Playfair Library during the Enlightenment, and in the 1960s Sir Basil Spence was commissioned to design a new main building in George Square. In 2006, the University undertook an ambitious £60 million project to redevelop the Main Library for the next generation of students, staff and visitors. Due to be completed in 2012, this phased redevelopment will preserve the iconic Grade A-listed building while introducing contemporary features, making it more accessible. The first phases of the project are now complete: the Ground Floor's main entrance, café and study facilities, and the Centre for Research Collections on the top two floors are now open. To see the progress, visit www.is.ed.ac.uk/mlrp/index.html.



Digital Imaging Unit, Centre for Research Collections.



Opposite page, clockwise from top: studying in the Playfair Library before Basil Spence's George Square site was created; quiet contemplation overlooking the Meadows; a new study pod for the 21st century; state-of-the-art shelving space; the printing and copying room, catering for all the modern-day student's needs. This page, clockwise from top left: artist's impression of Basil Spence's design, 1963; technology-free study in the 1960s; entering into a new era for the Main Library in the 1960s; the new-look Ground Floor; the Centre for Research Collections.

Did you know...?

- The Library was founded in 1580 when Edinburgh advocate Clement Litill bequeathed his collection of 276 volumes to the Town and Kirk of Edinburgh "thair to remain". The University admitted its first students three years later.
- As part of a commission to celebrate the reopening of the ground floor, artist Alec Finlay designed the circle poem in front of the Library entrance, and has produced *Interleaved*, a series of 100 short poems or mesostics based on books in the Library.
- A garden has been created immediately in front of the new café with plants from around the world, to symbolise the University's global presence.
- In 1967, 85,000 books were borrowed, 114 staff members worked at the Library, and there were no computers in use. In 2012, it is estimated that 1.1 million books will be borrowed, 400 staff will be employed and 800 computers will be in use.

Sailing into a moral storm?



With the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference on the horizon, University academics Dr Andy Kerr (School of GeoSciences) and Professor Michael Northcott (School of Divinity) offer different perspectives on whether Carbon Emissions Trading can help tackle the environmental challenges ahead.

Illustration: Guilherme Maueler. Guilherme is a student at Edinburgh College of Art (<http://ggatz.deviantart.com/gallery>)



Andy Kerr

Carbon emissions trading has become the policy instrument of choice for governments seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The scale of these national and international carbon markets is staggering. According to the World Bank, they already account for more than \$US 100 billion each year from buying and selling carbon instruments (carbon allowances and carbon credits). Given the widespread criticisms of carbon trading, and its noted flaws, why has this spectacular growth occurred?

The principles of carbon trading can be traced back to English economist Arthur Pigou. In 1930, he originated the idea that a government can, via a mixture of taxes and subsidies, correct so called 'market failures', for example the problem of not accounting for the damage done to the global environment in the prices we pay for energy or for food. This idea was refined in 1960 by economist and Nobel Prize winner Ronald Coase, who showed that these market failures could be tackled effectively by the use of saleable property rights. In carbon markets, these saleable property rights are the carbon instruments being traded between participants.

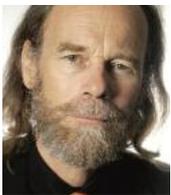
Market-based policies and taxation are two sides of the same coin. Governments can

control quantities of pollution by setting limits on the number of carbon instruments available and letting participants find an appropriate cost for that pollution. Or governments can control the cost of pollution – through taxation for example – and allow participants find an appropriate level of pollution. The better instrument to use depends on a range of factors. These include the number of participants in the scheme and the environmental damage that occurs relative to changes in volume of pollution being emitted.

Both taxes and market-based systems have certain advantages over direct government regulation, which sets limits to pollution for individual companies and organisations. This is not because of some magical ingredient of markets but because markets are very good at transmitting information to those involved and providing opportunities to act on that information. When well designed, such economic instruments should enable a reduction in pollution at lower overall cost to society. Arguably, carbon trading schemes are misnomers. At their heart are processes for managing and monitoring carbon emissions. Every participant must manage their emissions effectively; few need to trade extensively.

The real growth in carbon markets has come from schemes imposed on businesses. Early schemes operated in New South Wales, Australia, and in the UK. The UK scheme was

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Michael Northcott

Two cargo ships made history in the Arctic this summer. For 500 years navigators have looked for an arctic route from East to West without success. But thanks to thinning summer ice in the Arctic two

German registered ships sailed from South Korea via the Northeast Passage arriving in Rotterdam in late September.

The Northeast Passage was first sought by sailors in the 16th century but until now no cargo ship has made it through without becoming embedded in the ice. When the passage regularly opens up scientists believe the achievement will be more related to greenhouse gas emissions than seamanship. With summer ice in the Arctic Ocean reduced by 34 per cent since 1979 most of the north coast of Russia was pack-ice free in July and August with only the northernmost part of Siberia – the Vilkizi Strait – still partially ice-bound.

The opening of the Northeast Passage is a powerful symbol of the planetary warming that most scientists believe is caused by the atmospheric build-up of fossil fuel emissions. It also indicates the urgent need for an international treaty to reduce these emissions.

In the negotiations that led to the Kyoto Protocol, Al Gore, acting for the Clinton Administration, insisted that the US would only support a treaty to limit greenhouse gas emissions that established a market in pollution rights.

In the event, having saddled the nations with a complex set of arrangements for global trading in carbon emissions, which were originally strongly resisted by European and developing world representatives, the Clinton-Gore administration never even brought the Kyoto Protocol to Congress for ratification.

Billions of dollars have been spent since 2002 in establishing carbon markets, and in creating the new 'currency' of carbon permits. Many academics, civil servants and politicians now believe carbon emissions trading (CET) is the only feasible way to reduce fossil fuel demand. However since the inauguration of CET schemes – of which the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the European Union Trading Scheme are the largest – global fossil fuel consumption has continued to grow by three per cent a year. There is as yet no CET scheme operative anywhere in the world where the price of carbon has been high enough to motivate reductions in fossil fuel use.

The idea that the 'right' to pollute is a factor of production with an economic value, proposed by Ronald Coase in his 1960 paper *The Problem of Social Cost*. The attempt to trade in

such rights was first tried by the US Federal Government in the 1990s as a way to reduce sulphur emissions from coal-fired power stations. While sulphur emissions continue in the US at levels far higher than those permitted in most of Europe, nonetheless many economists argue that this new market approach to pollution reduction is more 'efficient' than conventional government regulation.

Emissions trading has however never before been used to try and resolve an international pollution problem. Many believe in this context that it will not work since it is prone to fraud and abuse. A quarter of the funds in the CDM have gone to China. And research reveals that 70 per cent of these funds have been garnered for hydropower plants that were already in the planning stages, or being built, before the inauguration of the CDM. In other words the money has not actually generated real reductions in fossil fuel use. Furthermore, the number of permits required to offset the planned fossil fuel use of the developed world in the next 20 years is far greater than the pollution credits available from presently envisaged fossil fuel replacement schemes in the developing or developed world. And there is another, even more fundamental problem with emissions trading.

The aim of CET is to price carbon so that the use of fossil fuels eventually becomes more expensive than substitutes such as renewable

>> page 16



soon superseded by the mandatory EU carbon trading scheme for energy intensive industry and power sectors.

Introduced in 2005, this initiative has become the core European policy tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the power sector and heavy industry. In a remarkably short time it demonstrated that the technical infrastructure for a market could be implemented. It also demonstrated that a successful market could be an environmental failure. The inability of political leaders to set meaningful limits to the number of carbon allowances in its first phase, from 2005–2007, was striking. Their continued inability to set effective carbon limits in the scheme's second phase, from 2008–2012, was depressing. For that reason, the European Commission removed the power of member state governments to set their own allocations of carbon allowances for the third phase, which will run from 2013–2020. Instead, the Commission has instigated a fixed reduction in carbon allowances year on year, which will reduce emissions by at least 500 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year between now and 2020.

Are there better ways of reducing emissions? One argument is that if only a global carbon tax was applied then all would be well. But exactly the same political calculation arises from a carbon tax as a market-based system.

Indeed, it has been easier for politicians to sign up to the EU carbon market and then blame the EU for the resulting costs to national business than to impose a meaningful carbon tax on their own businesses.

Another common complaint is that carbon trading schemes simply enable rich countries to buy out their obligation to reduce carbon emissions. From a scientific perspective it does not matter where in the world carbon emissions are produced or reduced. From an economic perspective there are strong advantages to global society of reducing emissions at the least cost wherever opportunities exist. However there are very real political repercussions for paying for emission reductions in other countries. The challenge for the carbon market designer has been to match two conflicting issues. The first is to keep the costs of carbon emission reductions within politically acceptable realms. The second is finding ways of enabling low and middle income countries to develop along a low-carbon pathway. This would involve large transfers in wealth from developed to developing countries. Initial attempts to match these two aims via the Kyoto Protocol carbon markets have failed to satisfy protagonists from either side.

A more damning indictment of existing carbon markets arises from issues of motivation. Evidence suggests that the imposition of rights and responsibilities onto businesses leads them to react more actively to reduce emissions than if a tax or direct regulation is

imposed. However, government engagement with their citizens regarding actions and behaviours to reduce carbon emissions remains woefully lacking. By investing carbon rights with businesses, governments have removed many individual incentives – apart from that of the carbon price – to reduce emissions. For example, switching off lights in the UK does not now reduce global carbon emissions. The resulting reduction in emissions from the power generator is compensated by additional emissions from another participant in the EU trading scheme.

This challenge of motivation may eventually see carbon markets designed around individuals rather than businesses. What is clear is that carbon emissions trading is one of many economic tools needed by governments for making radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years. They are here to stay.

Andy Kerr has traded UK, EU and Kyoto carbon instruments professionally. He is co-author of the book *Climate Change and Emissions Trading: What Every Business Needs to Know* (Consilience Energy Advisory Group, 3rd Edition, 2009) and has worked on the principles of applying carbon trading to individuals for the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce (RSA). He is Director of the Scottish Alliance for GeoSciences, Environment and Society (SAGES), and is based in the School of GeoSciences.



power and muscle power. But as the cost of permits rise sufficiently in those domains with carbon markets to reduce demand, the price of fossil fuels on world fuel markets will eventually fall. This will lower the marginal costs of using fossil fuels elsewhere.

Those already experiencing the effects of anthropogenic climate change cannot wait for the huge untried international experiment that is CET to come right, if it ever will. People in sub-Saharan Africa, and in Bangladesh, are suffering in their millions from droughts and floods though they mostly have no access to fossil fuels, or to grid or pipeline-based energy sources of any kind. The moral storm of anthropogenic climate change is that the powerful and wealthy nations and corporations which are most responsible for past and present greenhouse gas emissions are most

able to afford available substitutes.

Carbon emissions trading is a costly distraction from the moral responsibility that is upon political leaders and civil servants at the forthcoming Copenhagen Climate Conference. If the earth is to be prevented from warming beyond two degrees Centigrade – and beyond that temperature things will get catastrophically bad for billions of people to say nothing of other species – the nations need to reduce the quantities of fossil fuels supplied to the world's power stations, cement factories, buildings and vehicles before 2020.

Only a carefully regulated reduction in the global extraction of fossil fuels will deliver a reliable carbon price, which will motivate large corporations and public utilities to plan and build alternative power sources. This will only be achieved with an international legal treaty regulating the supply of fossil fuels, analogous to the highly successful 1987 Montreal

Protocol, which led to the phasing out of the supply of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Just over 12 months ago international financial trades in securitised debt and other dubious financial instruments brought the global economy to the brink of collapse. The likely failure of CET to reduce fossil fuel extraction will cause the collapse not just of financial systems but of agricultural production, forests and fisheries over much of the Earth's surface by the end of the present century.

Climate change is the gravest and largest scale moral challenge humanity has ever faced. We will not meet this challenge if we hitch the future of civilisation, and ultimately the planet, to carbon emissions trading.

Michael Northcott is Professor of Ethics in the School of Divinity and author of *A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming* (Darton Longman and Todd, 2007).





Great Expectations

As Professor Ian Campbell prepares for retirement after 42 years teaching English Literature, he reflects on the many changes he has seen.

Artist's impression of David Hume Tower, 1963



The paint was barely dry on an almost-new David Hume Tower when I first entered the building 45 years ago. Since that first day as a novice postgraduate in September 1964, I've witnessed the English department, like its George Square surrounds, continue to change and grow. I would have found it very difficult indeed to recognise today's department as it sits on the cusp of another academic year.

From my time as a postgraduate to today, as I prepare for retirement, I've been a watcher and a participant – I've witnessed the Square being pulled down and new buildings go up; I've watched the new library rise from the ashes of the glorious 18th-century buildings of the south side; I've seen many books transported from the attics of Old College to a bespoke modern building.

Abuzz with opportunities

Edinburgh is a wonderful place to teach literature. As a UNESCO City of Literature, it is abuzz with opportunities for students to widen their knowledge and get their first experience of publishing, of acting, of writing. Our excellent student body has access to several magnificent libraries, with the National Library, the University Main Library and the Scottish Poetry Library all at hand.

The University gives its staff opportunities to widen their horizons too, particularly to travel, and I have enjoyed teaching in Canada, the USA, several parts of Europe, and even in Japan. But I am always drawn back to George Square and Buccleuch Place.

Huge expansion

In the years I have been involved with the University, 'English Literature' is another thing that I have watched expand. It has now come to mean 'many literatures', most notably in Scotland's capital, where the teaching of

Scottish Literature has grown to be an integral part of our academic activities.

Scottish Literature is in a ferment of creative writing and publication just now, and we teach it at every level from introductory to doctoral: we enjoy creative writing fellowships which often bring noted Scottish writers to the department. As one of the Chairs of the Saltire Book Awards I read more than 100 books a year, which is indicative of the creative activity in this small nation. The University has in its teaching (and its Press) played a big role in the rise of the subject's popularity.

But 'English Literature' is as unrecognisable to us today as the current George Square would be to a student of 1964. With the University's huge expansion has come an explosion of the subject itself – in teaching methods (memories of lecturing in suit and gown come to mind), in class sizes, and in the expectations of those who read in a critical frame which has emerged politically energised and theoretically informed, consciously building links to linguistics and psychology, to gender theory, to politics and history.

Again, the contact hours with students (which we have jealously guarded in the department even as numbers exploded) are different – third and fourth years meeting in seminars whose numbers are kept down, meeting again each week in autonomous groups, talking, reading, arguing, sharing argumentative and original ideas with the amazing resource of the internet to help them.

And the internet does not just feed in to literature teaching; we use it to communicate to students on an everyday paper-free platform, to record ideas, to share ideas from small groups to larger groups, cautiously to supplement visits to bookshops and the library itself to glean information which might have

taken a few hours of research and is now only a keystroke away.

A gold standard

In our research activity – and I am part of the team who have in those same decades published 37 volumes of the *Carlyle Letters* and look set to finish the project with a few more – the internet, the computer, the fax and all the electronic research aids have transformed what is possible in a time when demands on teaching grow heavier and heavier, and demands to produce research performance never let up.

But it has been rewarding to be part of the English department's policy of "everyone teaches, everyone researches, and the one feeds the other at every point." It's encouraging to do well in the league tables and it's good to know that a top honours degree in English at Edinburgh is still a gold standard.

The department has attracted dozens of interesting characters in its time; students who have gone on to success in the media and in publishing, visitors from overseas who jolt us out of some of our own ideas with their innovative thinking, dozens of memorable characters among colleagues over the years and a succession of impressive scholars who have helped make our reputation what it is.

A lively future

Retirement will not mean cutting away from this hive of activity any more than it will mean losing touch with students, postgraduates, directees, the enormous postbag which the internet makes more possible every year.

There will still be research to do, and I suspect the future is going to be a lively place, just as the past has been. George Square resounds still to the sound of building, and I hope it long continues to do so.

people news

Miell for HSS



Professor Dorothy Miell has been appointed as the University's new Head of the College of Humanities & Social Science.

She joins the University from the Open University where she has been Dean and Director of Studies of the Social Sciences Faculty since 2005.

Professor Miell, who will take up post on 1 March 2010, will assume responsibility for leadership of the University's largest College, comprising 11 Schools and more than 13,000 students.

The University's Principal Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea says: "I was extremely pleased to have such a strong field of candidates for this position. I warmly congratulate Dorothy on her appointment and look forward to welcoming her to Edinburgh and to working with her next year."

Professor Miell holds a BSc and PhD in Psychology from Lancaster University. Her research focuses on understanding social and communicative aspects of creativity, particularly in collaborative activities such as making music.



New Heads of School inducted

The University has appointed five new Heads of School who have all been officially inducted into their roles.

The new appointees, who are pictured left to right, are: Professor Simon Clark, Head of the School of Economics; Professor Alvin Jackson, Head of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology; Professor Charlie Jeffery, Head of the School of Social and Political Science; Dr Pat McLaughlin, Head of the Moray House School of Education; and

Professor Dave Robertson, Head of the School of Informatics.

Professors Clark, Jeffery and Robertson took up their new posts at the start of the new academic year. Professor Jackson will begin his new role in January 2010 and Dr McLaughlin took up his position on 1 October.

All five new Heads completed an induction course in August to help ease them into their new roles.



CHARITY EVEREST TREK

A University software developer will this month trek to Everest base camp to raise money for charity. Jo Spiller, who works at the Learning Technology Section within the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, aims to raise £4,500 for research into the hereditary eye disease Retinitis Pigmentosa. She will climb to an altitude of 5,600 metres (18,370 ft) over a 13-day period. Sponsor Jo at www.basecamporbust.info.

MEDAL FOR PROFESSOR REES

Professor Jonathan Rees has won an award in recognition of his work in dermatology. The Edinburgh academic is the 14th recipient of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's David Anderson Berry Medal. Established in 1930, the Medal rewards recent work on the effects of radiation on living tissue. It is awarded every five years. Professor Rees' work explores the mutagenic and carcinogenic effects of ultraviolet radiation on human skin.

EUP HEAD AIDS LITERATURE GROUP

Timothy Wright, Chief Executive of Edinburgh University Press (EUP), has joined the Scottish Government's Literature Working Group. The Group was set up earlier this year to recommend a new approach to the public support of literature, focusing on writing and publishing. Wright has been Chief Executive of EUP since 1998. In 2008, he was elected to the Council of the UK Publishers' Association and is on the board for their Academic and Professional Division.

news in brief...news in brief...news in brief...news in brief...news in brief...

National hockey captain joins University club

Scotland's national hockey captain, Graham Moodie (right), has joined the University Men's Hockey Club as player/coach.

Graham, 28, has 96 Scottish caps and was part of the Great Britain squads at the Athens and Beijing Olympic Games.

Now, his task is to cement the University First XI's place in National League One, Scottish hockey's top division.

Playing against the best teams in Scotland, the University faces a great challenge.

However, Graham is confident that the team can build on its last season, when it maintained its place in League One and won the Scottish Universities Championship.

He said: "Every game will be a hard game and the priority is to keep the team up, but we should be in good shape. I'm looking forward to an exciting season."



Graeme Stapleton, the outgoing club captain, said: "Edinburgh has a very strong tradition of playing hockey at the top level. The appointment of Graham Moodie will help players develop further and make the club even more competitive."



Astronomer honours African experiment

University astronomer Dr Richard Massey (pictured) has returned to the site of a historical experiment in West Africa for the International Year of Astronomy.

Dr Massey, with University of Oxford academics Professor Pedro Ferreira and Dr Gisa Weszkalnys, paid homage to a 1919 trip led by Sir Arthur Eddington, to observe a total solar eclipse and prove or disprove Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

Sir Arthur travelled to the West African island of Príncipe on 29 May 1919 to test Einstein's

theory for the first time. His findings provided observational proof of General Relativity that sent shockwaves through the scientific community.

To mark the 90th anniversary of this trip, in partnership with the International Astronomical Union, Sao Toméan and Portuguese governments, Dr Massey and the team, joined the local community in Príncipe for a series of public talks, the installation of an exhibition and the unveiling of a plaque at the site where the original observation was made.

Role play



Name: Ian Bettison

Role: Equality & Diversity Manager

Department: Academic Affairs and HR

What is your role at the University?

I am responsible for ensuring the University develops an inclusive culture that meets the needs of the diverse community we serve.

I provide support and advice to the Vice-Principal of Equality & Diversity, Professor Lorraine Waterhouse, and work with colleagues who have volunteered to be Equality & Diversity coordinators.

Why does the University need someone to do your job?

I believe valuing our diversity actually enhances our reputation. Developing a culture where diversity is embraced and valued will enable everyone to have the opportunity to develop to their full potential. The University is required by law to identify and remove any unfair barriers that prevents this from happening.

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

Tenacity, flexibility and the ability to influence people of all levels. A positive attitude and the capacity to question established practice and perceived wisdom.

What are the best elements of your job?

I've been in post for almost four years and I enjoy the challenge of embedding diversity into our institutional culture. I enjoy the opportunity to interact with the wide diversity of students and staff we serve in the University community.

And the worst...?

People's reluctance to change or challenge established policies or practices, when there is evidence or legislation indicating that they should.

In another life, what job would you do?

Either a starting pitcher for the Boston Red Sox or a political spin doctor.

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

Rise and shine



Neuroscientist Giles Hardingham is a young academic on the rise. *bulletin* talks to him about his career to date.

Giles Hardingham, Reader and Royal Society University Research Fellow in Neuroscience, follows a long line of innovators. As a recipient of this year's Colworth Medal, one of the most prestigious awards for researchers in biochemistry, his name joins the ranks of pioneers in the field such as Philip Cohen, Alec Jeffreys and George Radda.

"If I can achieve a tenth of what those individuals have achieved I would be happy," declares the scientist whose work in neuron signalling could have important implications for the treatment and understanding of neurodegenerative diseases.

The 36-year-old researcher has been at the University for seven years but spent his formative years at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, which like Edinburgh, was one of the first UK centres for molecular biology. He recalls: "It was a unique environment and I worked with several Nobel Prize winners, which was something I didn't fully appreciate at the time."

Dr Hardingham's research investigates what causes the signals turned on in brain cells to live and die, why and how things go wrong and in what ways the process can be interfered with. "Understanding of this," he explains, "will have implications for how we treat and understand neurodegenerative diseases. But in harnessing what can cause harm, you have to be careful that you don't inhibit the good effects."

One condition that could potentially benefit from his team's findings is Motor Neurone Disease. Dr Hardingham's studies contribute to work at the University's Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research. The Centre was established in 2007 with funds donated by Motor Neurone Disease patient Euan MacDonald and his father Donald. The Centre aims to develop more effective treatment for patients and form part of a worldwide effort towards finding a cure.

Other collaborations Dr Hardingham has formed with Edinburgh colleagues include those with David Wyllie and Peter Kind (Centre for Integrative Physiology), Siddharthan Chandran (Euan MacDonald Centre) Donald Salter (Centre for Inflammation Research) and Karen Horsburgh (Centre for Cognitive and Neural Systems).

Outside of Edinburgh he liaises with researchers from his *alma mater*, the University of Cambridge, and has established a number of international collaborations with academics including Hrissanthi Ikonomidou from the University of Dresden, Peter Clarke from the University of Lausanne, Martin Privalsky from the University of California (Davis), and Michelle Aarts from the University of Toronto.

As well as being awarded the Colworth Medal, Dr Hardingham was also named as one of the European Molecular Biology Organization's 12 most talented young investigators. This programme identifies Europe's brightest and most promising young researchers at a critical stage of their scientific careers, offering them training, funding and access to networking opportunities.

Dr Hardingham's pioneering efforts were also recognised by the University at the annual Chancellor's dinner in August. He was awarded Rising Star in this year's Chancellor's Awards, which recognise innovation, relevance, creativity and personal dedication among the University's academic and teaching staff.

"It's a great honour to be nominated, particularly when there is such a great pool of early career researchers at the University," comments Dr Hardingham, who adds that there is no danger of being complacent, given the many academics in his research centre who have already risen.

Having already secured a long line of plaudits to date, Dr Hardingham looks set to continue to rise.

It's a great honour to be nominated for a Chancellor's Award, particularly when there is such a great pool of early career researchers at the University

GILES HARDINGHAM: CV

1991–1994: BA Natural Sciences, University of Cambridge

1994–1998: PhD, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

1998–2002: MRC Research Fellow, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

2002–present: Royal Society Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh

2007–present: Reader in Neuroscience, University of Edinburgh

obituary

David Frederick Cottrell 1947–2009



David Cottrell was a beloved teacher, colleague and friend of students and staff, not only of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary

Studies but also of other veterinary schools, particularly his *alma mater*, Liverpool University Veterinary School (1970), for whom he was an external examiner.

He was a proud member of the veterinary profession, a dedicated teacher and a scientist in the traditions of William Dick and his academic mentor Ainsley Iggo. Educating students was his great pleasure, and he was an inspiration to them as well as being their guide and mentor.

David offered a rare depth of perspective in veterinary teaching and was always willing to engage with less-experienced colleagues in discussions about teaching.

David was one of the veterinary profession's best applied physiologist/anatomists. He kept closely in touch with farming and the clinical practice of veterinary medicine through his herd of Red Devon cattle which he started with his first wife Joan. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and understanding over the whole field of veterinary medicine.

David made significant scientific contributions using his rare skills as a neurophysiologist and his wide knowledge of the physiology and anatomy of domestic animals. His particular interests in the nervous system, its control of the digestive system, and in conduction in peripheral nerves are recorded as publications in prestigious journals such as the *Journal of Physiology*, *Neuron* and *Nature*.

A soft spoken Devonian, from a farming background, David played rugby with international players in the University of Liverpool, Birkenhead Park and Heriots FP

before dedicating himself to both the 'Dick Vet' rugby clubs, the ladies', (which he helped to found) and the men's (of which he was treasurer).

David was devoted to his large family. He was also committed to his local community in Humbleton, where he helped found and run its film club.

David suffered a fatal heart attack on his way to complete yet another diet of professional examinations.

He leaves his wife Frances and their young daughter Sarah. His death leaves a huge void for his family and it is hoped his colleagues, students and friends can help them by keeping his spirit and ideals alive.

*Vince Molony
Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare at the
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies*

Forgotten Gems # 7: Old Surgeons' Hall

In the last edition of *bulletin*, we profiled six of the University's lesser-known buildings or sites of interest. Professor David Wield, Director of ESRC Innogen Centre, suggests Old Surgeons' Hall – the building he is based in – as a worthy addition to this list.

Old Surgeons' Hall, situated in High School Yards, dates back to 1697, according to the inscription above the entrance. Before it became a University building, it was home to the Royal College of Surgeons until they moved in 1832. At this time the High School Yards site was converted into a surgical hospital and Old Surgeons' Hall itself served as a fever hospital for the next 50 years. It is thought that notorious grave-robbers Burke and Hare operated nearby and may have even brought their bodies to the building. More recently it housed the University's dentistry department and now it is home to the ESRC Innogen Centre. If you have a Forgotten Gem, you'd like to share, email bulletin@ed.ac.uk.



Spot the difference

A meal for two at new Edinburgh hotel and bistro, Hotel du Vin, is on offer for one lucky winner of our Spot the Difference competition. To enter, compare the two pictures on the right. The image on the far right differs slightly to the one on its left. You are looking for five differences. Circle each one and send your answer in by Friday 27 November. All correct responses will be placed in a draw and a winner will be selected at random and notified by email.

Send your answers and email address to: **Competitions, Bulletin, C Floor, Forrest Hill Building, Forrest Row, Edinburgh, EH1 2QL.**



Word search

Try our Word Search challenge and another meal for two at Hotel du Vin could be yours. Find 16 University Rectors, listed right, from past to present. Mark your answers on the grid and send it to us with your name and email address by Friday 27 November to the address above. All correct answers will be placed in a draw, the winner will be chosen at random and notified by email.

A N O S S U N G A M S U N G A M G
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 N A R L A T M O K E L E C H R N N
 O M O L P A M D N E A T A L S L A
 T N E O I I O D O C B B R O E E X
 S I T L R N N E C I K C L O M Y E
 N A L G D M T N K U R K Y R A O L
 I I O E L V U T S T A L L T J R A
 W J M Y L E B S E R M Y E B A D E

CLUES

1. William Gladstone (1859)
2. Thomas Carlyle (1865)
3. Edward Stanley (15th Earl of Derby) (1874)
4. James Robertson (1893)
6. John Gilmour (1926)
7. Winston Churchill (1929)
8. Donald Pollock (1939)
9. Alexander Fleming (1951)
10. Jo Grimond (1960)
11. Gordon Brown (1973)
12. Magnús Magnússon (1975)
13. Donnie Munro (1991)
14. Tam Dalyell (2003)
15. Mark Ballard (2006)
16. Iain Macwhirter (2009)

About Hotel du Vin, Edinburgh

In this edition of *bulletin*, we are giving away a meal for two at Hotel du Vin for our competition winners. Newly opened, the hotel and bistro is located close to the University's central campus on Bristo Place. The venue is part of the Malmaison group, which is offering University of Edinburgh staff members and their visitors, the following special rates:

- £110 for a single room and breakfast at Hotel du Vin, Edinburgh
- £75 for a single room and breakfast at Malmaison, Edinburgh (1 Tower Place, Leith)

Previous winners: Phyllis Taylor, School of Divinity (Spot the Difference); Maggie Luttrell, Community Health Sciences (Word Search)

noticeboard

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

Please email your ad, maximum of 40 words, to small.ads@ed.ac.uk and send a cheque payable to the University of Edinburgh to Small Ads, Communications and Marketing, 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 any ad.

Apartments to let (holiday/short term)

One- and two-bedroom, high quality, central, self-catering apartments in and around Edinburgh city centre. Ideal for business or short stays. Deals available. Please contact us for further information. Visit www.edinburghcentrallets.co.uk to check availability and prices.

For sale

Delightful first-floor Georgian flat situated in a desirable location minutes walking distance from the city centre. Accommodation: drawingroom, kitchen/diningroom, double bedroom, large boxroom/bedroom, bathroom. Viewing: Sunday 2pm-4pm or by appointment. Call Liz on 0131 566 7288. Offers around £235,000.

To let

Temporary let January to July 2010. Rural family house with large garden, very close to Pencaitland, East Lothian. 14 miles to Edinburgh. Furnished. Five bedrooms, large lounge, dining room, kitchen & two bathrooms. Oil and Log CH. £950 pcm. Contact Simon.C.Riley@ed.ac.uk.

Pleasance/Newington: Modern, attractively furnished flat with wonderful views of Arthur's Seat, available from August. Double bedroom, single room/study, large sitting/dining room, bathroom and kitchen. Suit staff or postgrads (non-smokers) £500 pcm. Contact: helen.gillanders1@btinternet.com, tel: 0131 667 4768.

Holiday let

Ben View Cottage is a charming traditional granite two-bedroom cottage located 12 miles north of Aviemore in village of Grantown-on Spey with accommodation for four, ideally located in the centre (off the village square) with easy access to the local shops and restaurants. Discounted rates available for University of Edinburgh staff.

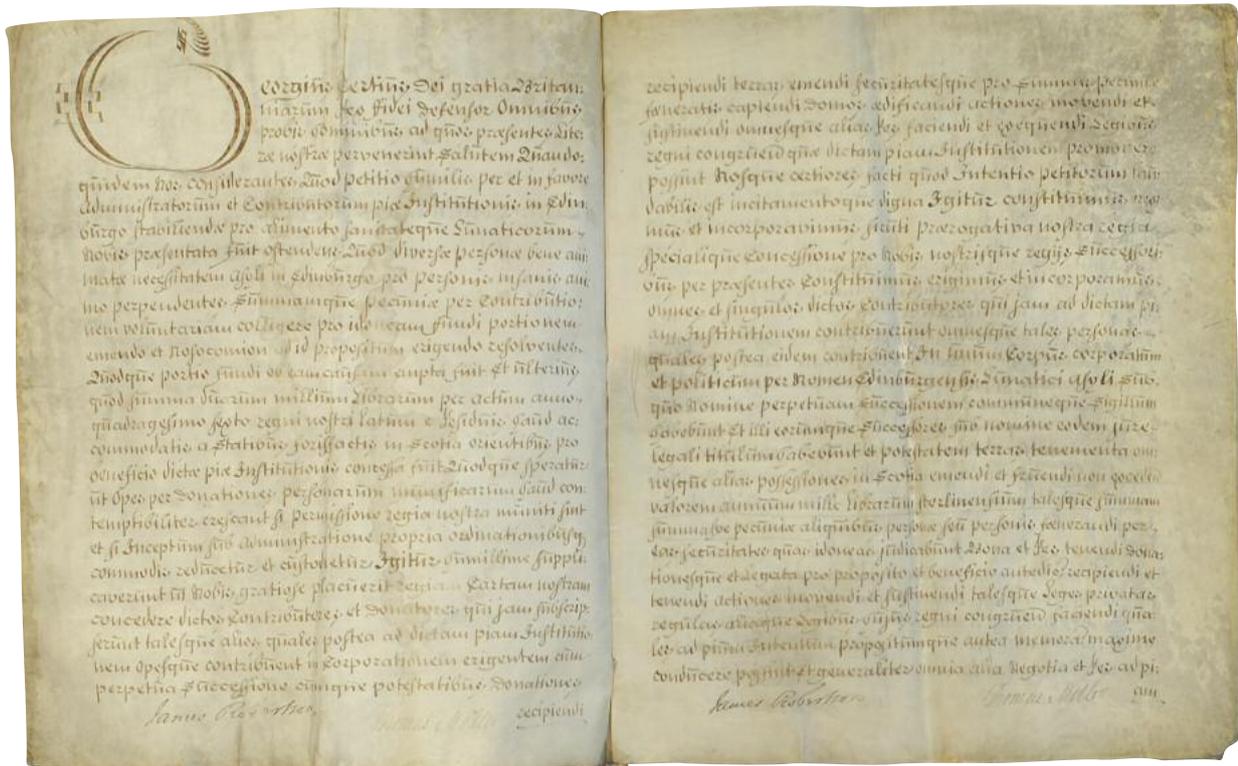
- Email info@ben-view.co.uk
- www.ben-view.co.uk/index.htm

Austria: family-owned traditional chalet, 75min drive SE of Salzburg (or 150min drive from an airport). Well equipped for all seasons, in a south-facing rural setting with beautiful views at 1000m in the Dachstein mountains. Sleeps 10+. CH and DG. Pay in pounds for good value in Europe!

- Tel 0131 447 2231/0165187 2889 or email Robwrate@googlemail.com
- www.mirlhofchalet.co.uk

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

Southern Italy: one bedroom, ground floor apartment with garden and terrace. Sleeps 4. Five-star resort 15 mins from airport. 500m to beach. Available from March 2010. Child friendly, pools, bar, restaurant, football, tennis, water sports. Very competitive rates. email: pizzobeachapartment@hotmail.com, or visit www.pizzobeachapartment.co.uk.



Showcase

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

Royal Charter of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital

1807, Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA)

A Royal Charter was granted to establish the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum by George III in 1807. The foundation stone was laid in 1809 and the original building, 'East House' in the Morningside area, opened in 1813. For more information about the LHSA: www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk