




THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Newsletter

| Autumn/Winter 2015 |



The mane attraction

Mini Kelpies visit
the quad

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Welcome



The Reverend Jesse Jackson

We started the new academic year with gusto, welcoming new and returning students to form one of the largest student communities we've seen for a while.

We also welcomed some more unusual guests to the Old College Quad. The mini Kelpies took up temporary residence, making an eye-catching centrepiece to the Quad.

This academic year will see our Old College refurbishment project pick up pace, with work scheduled to start this month. Behind the scenes we're beginning to make design decisions about our new space.

We also said farewell and congratulations to our graduating students this summer. We wish everyone the best of luck for their futures. Honorary degrees were also awarded to Professor Martin Loughlin and the Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Our staff, students and alumni continue to achieve with their studies, research and in their professional lives. We are proud to have such an impressive community. If you'd like to stay in touch with us throughout the year, you can keep up to date with our news on social media.



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What's on at the Law School

We host a lively programme of seminars, lectures and discussion. Our alumni are very welcome to come back and take part. Most of our events are free and many are open to the public.

To keep up to date with the Law School events visit www.law.ed.ac.uk/events

Here's a preview of what's coming up in November:

Date & Time	Event	Venue
16th November, 4pm to 6pm	The Continental Shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles - lecture presented by Dr Bjarni Mar Magnusson, and hosted by the Scottish Centre for International Law	Lecture Theatre 1, 7 Bristo Square
17th November, 6.30pm to 8pm	From Speculative Finance to Sustainable Finance: When Markets Can Do Good - presented by Professor Emiliios Avgouleas as part of the Our Changing World series.	George Square Theatre, George Square
20th November, 5.30pm to 7pm	The Wilson Miller Commercial Law Annual Lecture - with guest speaker Lord Clarke, Justice of the Supreme Court	Playfair Library, Old College
26th November, 6pm to 8pm	Defending the Human Rights Act - this year's Drummond Hunter Memorial Lecture is in association with Howard League Scotland and presented by Susan Kemp, Commissioner on the Scottish Human Rights Commission.	Lecture Theatre 5, Appleton Tower

Iconic Kelpies visit Quad

The Law School staff and students were treated to a public art spectacle when the mini Kelpies took temporary residence at Old College Quad. The three metre-high replicas of the iconic Kelpies have been on a worldwide tour and stayed at the Quad throughout October. They are now based at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.



The class of 1955 reunite

The Law School was delighted to welcome back the class of 1955, who were all celebrating their 60th anniversary with a long overdue reunion.

The reunion was held in the iconic Playfair Library, and Head of School Professor Richard Sparks, Professor John Cairns and Professor Hector MacQueen joined them.

"Looking round the table, I realised that my oldest and most loyal friends, now of at least sixty-three years standing, were there," said 1955 graduate Catherine Blight. "At the same time, there was the awareness of all those who were no longer with us or who had not been well enough to attend. As we dispersed, I was overcome by a feeling of poignancy - the enjoyment of our meeting and the uncertainty of us all ever gathering together again."



The class of 1955 were joined by Head of School Professor Richard Sparks, Professor John Cairns and Professor Hector MaQueen.

Lady Rae gifts access bursary

The Hon Lady Rae, a Judge of the Supreme Courts, has agreed generously to support further an undergraduate access bursary for a law student. Named after Lady Rae's mother, the Bianca Bruno Rae Access Bursary will provide much needed financial assistance to a talented student who would otherwise be unable to attend the university.

News



Refurbishment work at Old College begins

Graham Construction has been appointed to carry out phase one of the Old College refurbishment project, which begins in November. The construction firm was selected following a rigorous tender process.

The project is now gathering momentum and moving beyond the architects' impressions into something that is beginning to feel very real.

The Law School refurbishment project group has been making decisions about furniture selection and colour schemes with help for the latter from Professor Fiona MacLachlan, Professor of Architectural Practice at Edinburgh College of Art. Fiona is a colour specialist whose research covers the role of colour selection in architecture.

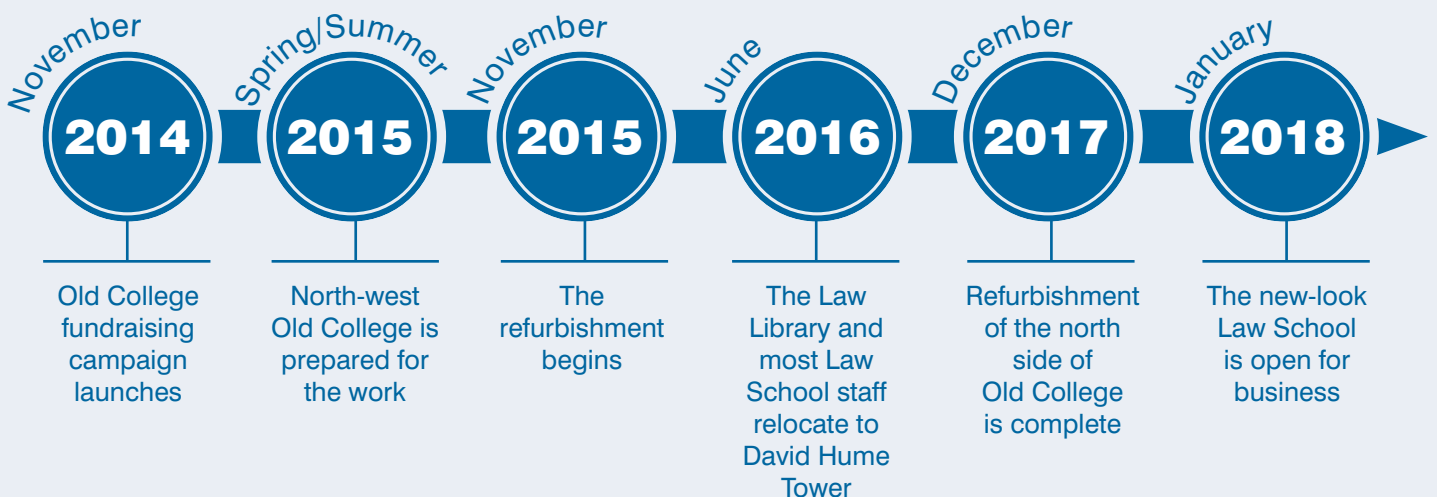
Expert advice has also been sought on choosing appropriate period colours that reflect the building's heritage.

A mock academic's room has also been created to give staff a sneak preview into how their new office space may look and feel when the project is complete.

Many Law School staff have already vacated Old College to make way for the refurbishment project. The remainder of staff based at the north-side of the building and the Law Library will move to David Hume Tower in June 2016.

You can keep up to date with the project at www.oldcollegeredevelopment.law.ed.ac.uk

Project timeline



Connected learning: 10 years of the online LLM

In November 2005, Edinburgh Law School celebrated its first online distance learning graduates. A decade later, our online LLM programmes have become an essential part of the Law School's teaching and learning activity, attracting professionals from all over the world.

To mark 10 years of online distance learning, we caught up with 2008 graduate Cecily Anne O'Regan to find out why studying an online LLM formed a critical part of her career development.



"In 2006 I had been a licensed patent practitioner for more than 10 years. The thought of an LLM was always interesting but unrealistic.

Most LLMs in the US required full-time attendance (I had a job) and were largely directed to topics that had no interest to me (like tax and estate planning).

Then I happened upon

the Edinburgh LLM in Innovation, Technology and the Law through online distance learning. It was a perfect combination of interesting courses in my area of practice that could be paced to fit within my busy work schedule from a top tier University.

The only downsides I could identify were that it would take time away from my husband (I was newly married) and I could not imagine how the courses could be delivered with the academic rigour I was accustomed to under the Socratic method [an established teaching technique for fostering critical thinking].

I solved the first obstacle by talking my husband into undertaking the LLM with me (we both graduated and we're still married!).

The second obstacle ended up being a non-obstacle. Although three years in the Socratic hot seat getting my JD [Juris Doctor] was tough, the online LLM was rigorous in its own right; there was no opportunity to take a pass on a question and your input to the discussions had to be thoughtfully composed and intellectually sound.

When I completed the LLM, I was amazed that I was able to make great connections with classmates even though we had never met. A few of us even scheduled a trip to World Intellectual Property Organisation following graduation to attend a conference.

“ When I completed the LLM, I was amazed that I was able to make great connections with classmates even though we had never met. ”

Additionally, having started the programme with a very US centric view of the world, hearing the perspectives from smart people in other countries expanded my understanding of how Intellectual Property (IP) protection is approached in other countries. I am currently the Chair of the Patent Prosecution Group at Shartsis Fries LLP in San Francisco. Roughly one third of my clients are entrepreneurs in foreign jurisdictions. Having a broad understanding of IP and the differing approaches has been valuable to me as I have expanded my practice.”

Online Distance Learning in numbers

10 years

Edinburgh Law School celebrates 10 years since its first online LLM students graduated.

1st

Our first online LLM was the LLM in Innovation, Technology in Law.

6

We now offer six LLM degrees by distance learning.

200

This year we welcome more than 200 online distance learning students from 45 countries.

Feature



Professor MacCormick Sir Neil (centre) in discussion

Remembering Neil MacCormick: A life in and beyond Old College

Neil Walker, Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations, remembers Professor Sir Neil MacCormick and his contribution to the Law School, Scottish politics and beyond.

Neil MacCormick was a close colleague to many of us in the Law School. Appointed to the Regius Chair of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations at Edinburgh in 1972 at the exceptionally young age of 31, he held this position until his retirement in January 2008 – for more than half of his life.

conversational yet precise (to read him was to hear him – and still is), his temper sometimes critical but always constructive.

Neil's intellectual curiosity and the depth of his involvement in public affairs meant that his legal philosophy was always a work in progress.

“With an eye to the future, he penned a draft Constitution for an independent Scotland, and made a persuasive case for a new state's automatic membership of the European Union.”

Neil achieved great eminence both in the academy and in the world of public affairs. He made a significant contribution to legal philosophy over 30 years. Author of nine books and countless articles, his body of work is richly versatile. From his earliest publications, he forged a strong link between the 'positivist' emphasis on law's social foundations and his commitment – as important to his public persona as to his intellectual vision – to a political philosophy grounded in the democratic right of collective self-government.

No-one was more adept than Neil at illustrating theory by practical example. He wrote with flair and insight about matters as diverse as statutory interpretation, judicial precedent, children's rights, the right to die, official secrecy, obscenity, intellectual property and the relationship between constitutional and international law. His style was engaging yet challenging, his tone

Of the four later books produced under the rubric of *Law, State and Practical Reason* that provide an eloquent statement of his mature thought, *Questioning Sovereignty* (1999) stands out as the most obvious link to his active political philosophy. It makes a path-breaking contribution to our understanding of the overlapping character of contemporary state, supranational (European Union) and sub-state (Scottish) law, challenging the adequacy of a traditional conception of legal sovereignty to capture this complex pattern.

For all his academic accomplishment, and his great service to the University and Law school (including two stints as Dean), Neil was just as prominent outside Old College. His father founded the modern Scottish nationalist movement, and the young MacCormick absorbed many lessons of liberal nationalism and

active citizenship. His subsequent contribution to the nationalist cause was immense. For many years a leading SNP visionary, he played a key part in reconciling the gradualist and fundamentalist wings of the Party. With an eye to the future, he penned a draft constitution for an independent Scotland, and made a persuasive case for a new state's automatic membership of the European Union. He served with distinction as an MEP in Brussels from 1999-2004, and even after returning to full-time academic life, the pull of politics remained strong. In 2007 he was appointed special adviser on European and External Affairs to Alex Salmond, the first SNP First Minister. This was a position he held until his death.

The two separate strands in Neil's life ran in close harmony. This was as much about sensibility as substance.

As thinker and teacher he was always closely engaged with practical questions. In Edinburgh and internationally he did much to improve the standing of legal philosophy as an active component of a professional legal education rather than a niche interest for the excessively intellectually curious. As politician and public speaker, he retained the best of the academic tradition. His approach was inclusive rather than divisive, reasoned rather than emotive, open-minded rather than partisan, long-sighted rather than seeking immediate advantage.

Neil died on 5th April 2009. He was survived by his three children and by his second wife Flora, who remains a cherished friend of the Law School. There was a huge turn-out from all walks of Scottish life at his funeral at Greyfriars Kirk, testifying to the great affection, admiration and respect in which he was held by the many whose lives he touched.

Leaving a legacy

Edinburgh Law School, family and friends are partnering with the Royal Society of Edinburgh to pay tribute to Sir Neil MacCormick's vision, life, work and commitment towards the world of education, law, and politics.

Together, we're planning to produce a lasting monument to Sir Neil MacCormick's outstanding contribution to intellectual life in Scotland, which will have pride of place at the newly refurbished Law School home at Old College.

If you'd like to know more or would like to contribute to the project please get in touch with emma.lacroix@ed.ac.uk

News in brief

European Banking Authority appointment

Professor Emiliios Avgouleas, the Law School's Chair of International Banking Law and Finance, has been appointed to the European Banking Authority's Banking Stakeholder Group. The European Banking Authority is an independent body, which produces the Bank prudential regulation standards with pan-European application, conducts the bank stress tests in the EU and monitors effective and consistent prudential regulation and supervision across the European banking sector.

Fringe appearance for Law academics

The Law School's Professor Lesley McAra and Professor Susan McVie have been encouraging Edinburgh Festival Fringe goers to think differently about crime and punishment. The youth crime researchers presented their "Hug a Thug" show in this year's Fringe as part of the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas series hosted by the Edinburgh Beltane Public Engagement Network.

AHRC grant organised crime research network

The Law School's Dr Liz Campbell has been awarded an AHRC research networking grant with Dr Nicholas Lord from the University of Manchester to develop a new research network exploring the intersections of corruption and organised crime activities within the context of criminal and non-criminal enterprise in domestic and international commerce in OECD countries. Anyone interested in joining the network should contact liz.campbell@ed.ac.uk.

Photo Story

Congratulations!

This summer we said congratulations to graduates of our LLB, LLM, MSc and Diploma programmes at Edinburgh Usher Hall. We also had the opportunity to honour two special individuals for their valuable contribution to the fields of law and human rights, conferring honorary degrees upon Martin Loughlin, Professor of Public Law at London School of Economics and the The Reverend Jesse Jackson, renowned civil rights leader.

Jesse Jackson was made an honorary graduate at a ceremony at his Edinburgh International Book Festival event, hosted in partnership with the University of Edinburgh and the Global Justice Academy.



Clockwise from top left:

The Reverend Jesse Jackson with Christine Bell, Professor of Constitutional Law; All our graduates gather outside the Usher Hall for a group photo; Professor Martin Loughlin; Dr James Harrison poses for a Graduation Day memento with a student.



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