THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Newsletter

| Autumn 2014 |

1789 – 2014

Join us to celebrate 225 years of Old College

More details inside!

Old College, 1900. Courtesy Digital Imaging Unit, Edinburgh University Library

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Welcome from our New Head of School – Richard Sparks

I am really honoured to take up the post of Head of School, and particularly delighted to extend a warm welcome to our alumni. We hope to see many of you in November when we celebrate 225 years of Old College (see page 6 for more details). This is an exciting time, with work starting on our redevelopment in the New Year. Alas, ambitious refurbishment does not come without some practical inconvenience and I am full of praise for our support staff who are working so hard to ensure life for our current students and academic staff will not be disrupted by the building work. I am confident that we can minimize those disruptions and continue to develop and thrive as a School. I am really grateful to all concerned for making it so.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome our new academic staff this semester. Dr Paolo Cavaliere joins us as the new Lecturer in Digital Media/IT Law. Paolo joins us from the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford. Dr Filippo Fontanelli has just been appointed to a Lectureship in International Economic Law, having previously taught at the University of Surrey. Dr Haris Psarras, one of our recent PhD graduates, is joining us as a Teaching Fellow in the Legal Theory Team and Dr Annalisa Savaresi is also a Teaching Fellow in Global Environmental Law. Finally Dr Stephanie Bell joins as a Postdoctoral Development Fellow. Stephanie completed her PhD at Warwick and has been working there as a Teaching Fellow until the last few months when she completed an internship in Brussels.

Richard Sparks' Biography

Richard Sparks is Professor of Criminology and Co-Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research. Richard's main research interests lie in the social and legal aspects of punishment (especially imprisonment); penal politics; public responses to crime and punishment; and the uses, abuses and non-uses of criminological knowledge in shaping public policy on crime and punishment. Richard is the author of ***Television and the Drama of Crime*** (1992) and co-author (with Tony Bottoms and Will Hay) of ***Prisons and the Problem of Order*** (1996);(with Evi Girling and Ian Loader) of ***Crime and Social Change in Middle England*** (2000); and with Ian Loader of ***Public Criminology?*** (2010). He has also edited several books including ***The SAGE Handbook of Punishment and Society*** (with Jonathan Simon) (2012).

Richard is about to celebrate his tenth anniversary at the Law School. Previously he spent 14 years at Keele University, latterly as Dean of Social Sciences, and before that in posts at the Open University and the University of Cambridge.

Forthcoming Events

The Law School holds many events which are open to the public and we are particularly delighted to welcome alumni on these occasions. Some upcoming highlights are listed below; keep an eye on the Law School website for more. All events are free but some may be ticketed. For more information about any of the below please email law.events@law.ed.ac.uk or call 0131 650 2008.

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Monday 27th October	**Global Justice Academy, Global Health Academy and the Mason Institute: Professor Lawrence O. Gostin, Global Health Law**. Lawrence Gostin directs the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. He is Director of the Centre for Law & the Public's Health at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities.	4pm–6pm	The Playfair Library, Old College, followed by drinks reception.
Wednesday 12th November	International Law Annual Lecture: **Sir Christopher Greenwood CMG QC**, Judge of the International Court of Justice: **The Relationship between International Courts and National Courts.**	6pm–7.30pm	Venue to be confirmed – please call or email at contact details above for more information.
Friday 21st November	Edinburgh Centre for Commercial Law: **Lord Hodge**, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom: **Does Scotland Need Its Own Commercial Law?**	5.30pm–9pm	The Playfair Library, Old College, followed by drinks reception.
Sunday 23rd November	Celebration of 225 years of Old College	See page 6 for more details.	Procession from Parliament Square to Old College.

University and School News

Congratulations, Class of 2014!

Another beautiful July day for this year's graduation.

Hector MacQueen Reappointed as Commissioner

Professor Hector MacQueen

Professor Hector MacQueen has been reappointed as a Commissioner to the Scottish Law Commission. Since his appointment in 2009 Professor MacQueen has led projects including a large-scale review of the Scots law of contract in light of the European Draft Common Frame of Reference. Professor MacQueen will now continue in his appointment as Commissioner until September 2017.

LLM Student Wins Colin Donald Award

Congratulations to Michaela Schwedeler, a student on the LLM in Global Environment and Climate Change Law, who has won this year's Colin Donald Award for Environmental Law 2014. Michaela won the prize for an LLM essay in European Environmental Law.

Golden Boy Gets New Gilt Coat

Photo credit: Paul Dodds

Golden Boy, the statue holding the torch of knowledge that gazes out across the city from the dome of Old College, has been re-coated with gold leaf for the first time in 30 years. The dome of Old College was originally constructed under the supervision of the architect Robert Rowand Anderson in 1887, and the Golden Boy was created by the sculptor John Hutchison. Both the dome and the Golden Boy were paid for from a bequest for £3,700 from Robert Cox, a Gorgie Lawyer.

Postgraduates Visit The Hague

LLM students pictured with Judge Greenwood

Students on the Global Environmental, Climate Change and International Law LLMs visited The Hague in March this year to hear the International Court of Justice's decision on *Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan: New Zealand intervening)*. The 16 students from 12 different countries had the chance to meet privately with Judges Greenwood and Sebutinde and enjoy dinner with several Edinburgh Law School alumni. The trip was supported by the student-led postgraduate communities at the Law School, Edinburgh Law Connections (ELC) and Edinburgh Law Postgraduate Hub (ELPH). Judge Greenwood will be speaking at the Law School in November. See opposite page for more details.

Alumni Feature - Class of the 1980s

In the 1980s the number of female undergraduates at Old College firmly overtook the number of men. We invite some of the women who were part of that sea-change to reminisce, and find out where their law degree took them after their time at Old College.

Gill Hollis (née Meekison), LLB 1987

I loved my four years at Old College. As a generalist, I thrived on the breadth and variety of the subjects offered by the Law School and, as a social animal, on the breadth and variety of the teaching staff and my fellow students too. I have spent the last 27 years in the investment industry, latterly setting up a small firm with my husband Peter. However, in 1992 my life took an unexpected turn when I was diagnosed with a very rare, progressive lung disease, LAM. Over the next decade, my health deteriorated until my only chance of survival was a transplant. I was extremely lucky; I received a single lung transplant in 2004 and it has been a huge success, for which I'm incredibly grateful. As a result I have developed a parallel career as a health advocate, representing patients and raising awareness of both LAM and transplantation. I've gone full circle, putting into practice principles I learned in my Medical Jurisprudence classes all those years ago!

Jacquelyn MacLennan, LLB 1983

The Law Faculty was a welcoming place and a manageable size. I always felt fortunate compared to others doing less "collegiate" degrees. I am currently a partner in an international law firm of 2000 lawyers, White & Case. I did my training to qualify as a Scottish solicitor at Shepherd & Wedderburn, an excellent and far sighted Edinburgh firm, and then went to work in the Legal Service of the European Commission, before moving into private practice. I used to run the Brussels office of the firm, and for the last three years I've been a member of my firm's executive committee, which determines its strategy and management. I'm privileged to work with lawyers in almost 30 countries, with different issues and challenges. However, the legal world almost everywhere is marked by significant under-representation of women in senior leadership positions (I am 25% of the four person committee) and one of my aims is to encourage more women to stay in the profession and achieve success there.

Kay McCorquodale, LLB 1985

I joined Edinburgh University Law Faculty in October 1981 – a real culture change from my farming background and secondary education at Nairn Academy. I quickly made friends – many of whom are still close despite several of us leaving Edinburgh to practice law elsewhere (usually London) but returning to Edinburgh in due course. And I met my husband David.
I secured a traineeship with Shepherd & Wedderburn and, after a brief spell in London, became a partner there under the age of 30. Family commitments led me to leave after 5 years (there was no such thing as a part time partner in those days) and join the Legal Directorate of the Scottish Government where I have held a variety of interesting and challenging posts.
Most recently I returned to my litigation roots as part of fundamental reviews of the court system in Scotland and I am now taking the policy lead in implementing these reforms.

Advice for Current Students

> Your degree is a door opener. It can take you anywhere you want to go. Be proud of that.
> Be confident that you can do whatever you want to do. And be true to yourself while you're doing that.
> *Jacquelyn MacLennan*

> Stay in touch with your class-mates: they will be your friends and sounding boards for years to come.
> *Eilidh Wiseman*

Lindy Patterson, LLB 1980

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Law School (or Law Faculty as we called it then) although I am sure the passage of time has dimmed the stresses of exam times. I wasn't sure when I started out as a trainee lawyer what areas of law I wanted to specialise in. One thing I was sure about was that it wouldn't be litigation! Fast forward two years and I was a litigation assistant doing civil and criminal work appearing in the sheriff court regularly. Three years in I started to specialise in commercial litigation and then construction and related disputes acquiring rights of audience in the Court of Session along the way. As solicitor advocate I was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2011. My practice is very varied. I have been involved in some amazing projects from a nuclear power plant in Finland to Murrayfield stadium.

Linda Urquhart, LLB 1980

I arrived at the Law Faculty in 1977, with the intention of getting a law degree then doing a conversion course to become an accountant, but I enjoyed my degree and decided to stick with the law. I trained with Steedman Ramage then moved to Morton Fraser and specialised in commercial property. I was made a partner when I was two years PQE at the tender age of 26. I found I had an interest in the business of law and held various management roles alongside my practice before becoming Chief Executive of Morton Fraser, and now hold the non-exec Chairmanship. My training as a lawyer and my time in law firm management were good grounding in the skills needed around the board table.

Eilidh Wiseman (née Cameron), LLB 1985

I was the first person in my immediate family to go to University and my parents were very proud. As the faculty was very small we all made lifelong friendships. I trained in Scotland, spent 8 years here, marrying fellow class-mate John Wiseman along the way, before requalifying in England. I came back to Edinburgh in 1997 and joined Dundas and Wilson CS as a partner heading up their nascent employment practice, where I stayed till earlier this year.

I am currently an elected member of the Council of the Law Society of Scotland and Convenor of its Education and Training Committee. I am also on the Board of National Museums Scotland and on the Development Advisory Group for the Charity Place2Be. I really love my new found freedom and ability to undertake interesting one-off projects.

Favourite Memories of Old College

"

We were incredibly lucky to benefit from a golden age of Old College lecturers: the sonorous tones of Bill Wilson, the infectious enthusiasm of Neil MacCormick, the wisdom (and biscuits!) of Ken Mason.

Gill Hollis

"

Meeting my husband. We started on a journey together at Old College which is marked by 25 years of marriage this year, and three children.

Jacquelyn MacLennan

"

Chatting in the Law Library – with people I still count as friends.

Lindy Patterson

Old College – Past, Present and Future

Photographic copy of engraved view of laying of the foundation stone of Old College looking South to Register House.
© Courtesy of RCAHMS (Original held by Richard Emerson). Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk.

This November marks the 225th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of Old College. In 1789 an awe-inspiring 30,000 of Edinburgh's then 80,000-strong population gathered to watch a procession from St Giles to the site for Old College, to lay the plans for the central building to house the whole University in what is now the Old Quad. The procession was headed by the University's then Principal, William Robertson, and Old College's original architect, Robert Adam.

An Invitation

Join us to celebrate **Old College's past, present and future!**

On **Sunday 23rd November 2014** 10:30am till 2pm, at Parliament Hall
and afterwards in the Playfair Library, Old College.

We will celebrate the 225th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone and look forward to the Law School's future in Old College with a procession of University staff, law alumni and the legal profession of Scotland, headed by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir Timothy O'Shea, along with senior Law School staff.

We have a limited number of places for our alumni to join the procession and afterwards for lunch in the Playfair Library. If you would like to attend kindly rsvp as soon as possible, and no later than 10th November 2014, to **anna.gibbons@ed.ac.uk** or telephone 0131 651 4222.

2014 **New Law Library** Donors

A huge thank you to this year's donors to the New Law Library at Old College. We are very grateful for every contribution which will help us to make the Law Library a world-class resource and study space for our students.

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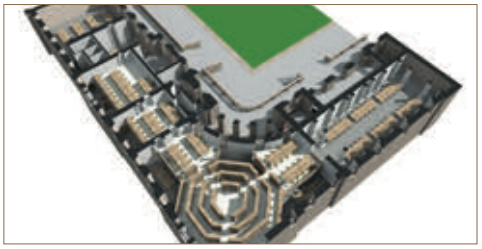

From left to right: Cross-section of new central staircase for Old College (please do note that the original Adam and Playfair stone staircases at either end of the Law School will also remain), part of the design for the New Law Library – the new private study room behind the War Memorial, floor plan of the New Law Library showing the beautiful octagonal book stacks, the same shape as the original lecture theatre above the Law Library. Images courtesy of LDN.

We are also very grateful to all our anonymous donors and to all our loyal and long-standing donors who help us in so many ways, including supporting students, resources and events at the Law School.

To donate online, go to **www.campaign.law.ed.ac.uk**

A Week with **George Gretton,** Lord President Reid Professor of Law

Professor George Gretton shares a few days with us …

Sunday 17th August

Back yesterday evening from ten days' holiday in Wales with various relatives including my 20-month old grandson, Archie Gretton. I did almost no academic work while away: so I return to the usual mountain of accumulated emails, few of which alas prove to be instantly deletable.

Archie Gretton

Monday 18th August

A Slovenian lawyer emailed me some time ago to say that she would be in Edinburgh for the Festival and could she come to see me to discuss substitutio fideicommissaria? We arranged today and she appeared at 14.00. What did we discuss? Substitutio fideicommissaria. It's a don's life.

Tuesday 19th August

Old College is awash with festival-goers and other sightseers. My office is in the north-west corner at quad level, next to the main loos in this area, so I have loo-goers near my door all the time. They stare at me as if I am from outer space.

Much of the week is spent preparing course materials for the new term, which are now overdue. One of the laws of physics, for the discovery of which Werner Heisenberg was awarded the Nobel Prize, is that everything takes longer than you think it'll take; the exception is course preparation, which takes *far* longer than you think it'll take. Actually I enjoy it and that is part of the problem. (By contrast I generally don't enjoy marking, so do that as fast as I can.)

Wednesday 20th August

Lunch with a land reform campaigner who wants to speak with me about the Scottish Government's announcement that all land will be in the Land Register by 2024. He is concerned that this cannot be achieved except at the risk of errors. To some extent I share his concern.

Thursday 21st August

Lunch with a Japanese professor who wishes to discuss trust law: he thinks that the Japanese have much to learn from Scots trust law. Curiously, later this week I receive an email from another Japanese professor saying the same thing and proposing a visit to Edinburgh in 2015 to study our trust law.

Friday 22nd August

Supervision meeting with a doctoral student, preceded (yesterday) by reading the paper he has submitted for the meeting, which is about the origin of the floating charge in Scotland. It contains excellent work and is a pleasure to read. Naturally the meeting is also a pleasure. It would be good if all student supervision meetings were like this.

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