Introducing the new Old College
Alumni newsletter
A new chapter

This has been a truly landmark year for the Law School.

In this edition of the alumni newsletter, we look back on some of the past year’s highlights, reflect on the changes we have seen, and celebrate our eminent teaching and research, which continues to drive change throughout Scotland, the UK, and the world.

2018 saw the launch of numerous new and exciting projects, such as the Scottish Feminist Judgments Project, which continues to gather momentum (read more on page 8), while projects such as the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime and The integration of British Transport Police in Police Scotland have recently been recognised for their impact by being shortlisted for prestigious awards.

We were pleased to be visited by a number of high profile guests over the past few months. From Anne Roosevelt in September, to Patricia Russo and Philippe Sands in November, we are delighted to provide a space for inspirational speakers to share their learning and wisdom.

Earlier this year, the Law School also welcomed UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths for an important discussion around peace building in Yemen (read more about the visit on page 10), and hosted a Q&A session with the Legal Advisers to the Foreign Ministries of China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US, organised by the newly created Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law.

We are delighted that Spaces for Voices, the initiative by the Edinburgh Foundation for Women in Law, has been reinvigorated by Director Annie Sorbie. In April we welcomed the Hon Lady Wolffe, Judge of the Court of Session, to deliver a lecture on the first 100 years of women in law. You can learn more about the foundation and its work at www.spacesforvoices.law.ed.ac.uk

In other news, after much hard work, the Law School web project has borne fruit with the completion of our brand new website. The refreshed site will make it easier and more enjoyable for students, staff, and alumni to connect with us and keep abreast of all the latest news and events. Take a look for yourself at www.law.ed.ac.uk

But one of the most exciting developments we have to share with you is our long awaited return to our home in Old College. The refurbishment has been extensive but thoughtful. From stunning new student spaces to a refreshed library, we are so pleased to be able to offer world-class facilities to support our world-class teaching and research. You can read more about the project on page 15.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the alumni newsletter, and look forward to hearing more of your news in the coming year.
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Since Navraj Singh Ghaleigh began his sabbatical last year, Dr Michelle Burgis-Kasthala has taken over as Director of Alumni Relations here at the Law School.

Michelle joined the Law School in 2013 and is a lecturer in Public International Law. As well as teaching public international law and international human rights law, her research focuses on the operation and contestation over international law across the Arab world.

Michelle is also involved in the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law, which has been busy with a number of high profile events this year, such as a visit by the P5 Legal Advisers and the inaugural Edinburgh-Glasgow International Law Workshop (read more on page 9).

In her role at the helm of alumni relations this past year, Michelle has been focusing on mentoring opportunities. The University has recently launched Platform One, an online meeting, community, and discussion place, where mentoring partnerships can be made. You can find out more about how to get involved in this scheme on page 23.

Edinburgh Law School in numbers:
the shape of the School in 2019

At 312 years old, Edinburgh Law School (founded in 1707) has 12 research centres, 10 student societies, and a student body that hails from 67 countries worldwide.

The total number of law students at the School today is 1,775, with 935 of those studying for their undergraduate degree, 720 undertaking a taught postgraduate, and 120 completing a research postgraduate. We are also proudly home to 103 academic staff members, as well as 48 professional services staff members.

The past year has seen plenty of changes in the faculty and wider staff of the Law School. All those staff members who have departed we wish the very best in all their future endeavours. Among them is Professor Anne Griffiths who has retired – read about her impressive Law School career on page 10.

Meanwhile, we were delighted to welcome a number of new staff members to the School, including Professor Nehal Bhuta. You can read about his work with the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law on page 9.
Professor Hector MacQueen awarded CBE

In June, Professor Hector MacQueen was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen’s birthday honours list.

Professor MacQueen was recognised for services to legal scholarship, which span four decades and have had an impact on the Scottish legal system and beyond. One of the longest serving members of the Edinburgh Law School community, Professor MacQueen has held the chair of Private Law since 1994 and from 2010 to 2018 was a Scottish Law Commissioner. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh since 1995 and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2006. His best-known scholarly contributions are in the fields of contract law, legal history, and intellectual property.

On receiving the award Professor MacQueen said: “I see it as an honour especially for Scots law and scholarship, and I am particularly glad to acknowledge all the friendship and support I have received over 40 years in the Edinburgh Law School, across the University, and in the Scottish legal profession.”

Dr Kasey McCall-Smith identified as key human rights influencer

Edinburgh Law School’s Dr Kasey McCall-Smith has been recognised as a key player in the discourse surrounding modern slavery. The 2018 Annual UK Top 100 Corporate Modern Slavery Influences’ Index is based on social media impact and advocacy.

Dr McCall-Smith, Lecturer in Public International Law, has been recognised for her extensive work on human rights. The Index is designed to raise awareness around the pressing issue of modern slavery and celebrates organisations and individuals as they fight against this crime.

In February, Dr McCall-Smith was also announced as a Global Justice Academy Fellow, in her capacity as which she will work across the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences to develop an interdisciplinary introductory online course on human rights, in order to give students a baseline level of knowledge about human rights impacts that will help them with decision-making in their

Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) recognised for the second year running at the Law Awards of Scotland 2018

Edinburgh Law School’s FLAC received a Commendation at the Law Awards of Scotland in November 2018, the second year in succession that the invaluable work of the Centre was recognised by the legal profession.

FLAC received the Pro Bono Award in 2017 and, along with the Access to Justice Foundation Award, last year’s honour completes a hat trick of awards received during the last 18 months.

Congratulations to the team for their stellar work!

From left: Alison Atack (President of the Law Society of Scotland), James Anderson (Student Director, Strathclyde University Law Clinic), Keren Conway (FLAC Coordinator/Teaching Fellow), Rebecca Samaras (Director, ECPLS), Clare Anderson (FLAC/ECPLS Administrator), and Fred MacAulay (Awards host)
Professor Richard Sparks awarded doctorate honoris causa by KU Leuven

The Academic Council of KU Leuven conferred an honorary degree upon Professor Richard Sparks at a ceremony in April 2019. The Faculty of Law at KU Leuven recommended Prof Sparks for this honour in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the further development and institutionalisation of criminology in Europe and beyond, and his key role in stimulating reflection and debate on the role and function of criminology in contemporary democracies.

Professor Dr Luc Sels, Rector of KU Leuven, said: “[His] work on crime and insecurity, on prisons and punishment, as well as on the place of crime and punishment and the role of knowledge in democratic debate have been exemplary for what criminology, at its best, is able to achieve. Moreover, [his] personal academic career demonstrates, and serves as an example to all of us, how attention for theory, empirical research, as well as service to the university and society at large can be reconciled in one person.”

On receiving the news of the award, Prof Sparks said: “I really value my association with Leuven and have great admiration for the criminology group and the wider Law Faculty there, so it’s a delight to be recognised in this way by them. I hope this helps to continue to deepen and extend the collaboration between our two Schools.”

Dr Leandro Mancano appointed Deputy Contact Point for ECLAN

Dr Leandro Mancano, Lecturer in European Law at the Edinburgh Law School, was appointed as the UK’s Deputy Contact point for the European Criminal Law Academic Network (ECLAN) in April.

ECLAN is a network of researchers and academics engaging in EU criminal law across 32 countries. It aims to develop academic research and training in the field of EU criminal law. One Contact Point represents each Member State within the network to act as intermediary between the network and other academics and researchers of the Member State they represent.

Professor Lesley McAra elected President of the European Society of Criminology

Edinburgh Law School’s Chair of Penology, Professor Lesley McAra, was elected President of the European Society of Criminology in September 2018.

Founded in 2000, the Society brings together leading experts in criminology from across the globe to foster criminological scholarship, education, and training. Professor McAra was voted in at the Society’s annual conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

“I’m very honoured and humbled by the election. I think the timing of the appointment is eloquent. Never has the Society been more salient than in these turbulent times when the post-war European project has become increasingly under threat.

“The Society’s strength lies in its capacity to forge new research networks and collaborations, build robust evidence and enable us to engage, challenge and enlighten. As we move towards Brexit, the appointment is a statement from the Society about connecting the strong academic networks that stretch between the UK and the rest of Europe.”
In memoriam

Professor Alan Watson 1923-2018
By Professor John W. Cairns

Alan Watson, who served as Professor of Civil Law in the University of Edinburgh from 1968 to 1980, died in Athens, Georgia, on 7 November, aged 85. He remained an Honorary Professor at Edinburgh, and was proud of our award to him of the degree of LLD, honoris causa.

A devoted pupil of David Daube, Alan was a charismatic man, a brilliant teacher, and a highly original scholar. A proud Glasgow graduate, who took his doctorate at Oxford where he taught for a number of years, Alan first made his name with a series of works on the laws of the later Roman Republic. His book, Legal Transplants, first published in 1974, made his reputation as a comparative law scholar. Alan enjoyed remarking that it at first made no impression and was ignored; if true, this was certainly not latterly the case, and the idea of “transplants” has come to be one of the most widely adopted concepts in contemporary comparative law. A true enthusiast for ideas, and possessed of a very fertile mind, many books flowed from his pen (he never took to the typewriter much less the computer). His editing of the translation of Justinian’s Digest has proved invaluable, while also producing some of Alan’s favourite anecdotes.

After leaving Edinburgh, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania for a few years, before moving to the University of Georgia, where his wife, Camilla, was also a law professor. They then settled down to life in the South, with time split between Athens and their much-loved farm in South Carolina.

Alan could inspire students, and relished teaching. Indeed, he was very disappointed when a relatively recent downturn in his health meant he had to retire. He missed his classes. With a strong social conscience, he was courageous in the face of injustice, as Deans sometimes found to their cost. This is not the place for personal reminiscence, nor for a discussion of Alan’s wider, rich, and very full life. He was a passionate man of warm emotions, generous, kind, and thoughtful, who had a real zest for life. He will be much missed and our thoughts are with his family.

Mr David Sellar 1941-2019

Edinburgh Law School was saddened by the news that William David Hamilton Sellar, MVO, BA, LLB, LLD, FRHistS, FSA(Scot), passed away on 26th January at the age of 77 after a period of increasing ill-health.

A long-serving member of the Law School (formerly the Faculty of Law) who was elected an Honorary Fellow in 1997, Mr Sellar was also Lord Lyon King of Arms from 2008 to 2014.

Mr Sellar took up his appointment as a lecturer in the Department of Scots (later Private) Law in 1969 after a number of years as a legal assessor for the Scottish Land Court, and was promoted to senior lecturer in 1975. He was a renowned expert on the legal history of the Highlands and a respected genealogist who made a number of important contributions to those fields; an early article on ‘The Origins and Ancestry of Somerled’, for example, published in 1966, was seen as the definitive discussion on its subject for forty years.

Mr Sellar’s funeral was held on 23rd February 2019 in Warriston Crematorium and on that day the University flag was flown at half-mast over Old College in his honour.

He will be deeply missed by the Law School and our sincere condolences are with his family.

Mr Sellar was remembered fondly in a memoir by the Law School’s Prof Hector MacQueen, which can be read in full at https://edin.ac/2JBmsxn
On 6th-8th September 2018, over 100 speakers were welcomed to Edinburgh to contribute to six themes of discussion on ‘Renewing Rights in Times of Transition: 70 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights’. The conference was closed by Anne Roosevelt, who also delivered the final address.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (known as Anne) recently retired as the Chief Executive Officer for Goodwill of Northern New England, an influential not-for-profit social enterprise that creates jobs, delivers needed services for people with diverse challenges, uses environmentally friendly products and processes – all while earning revenue to fund Goodwill-designed workforce programs that empower individuals and families to find stability through work. Her closing address, ‘Nevertheless, she persisted’, paid tribute to her grandmother, Eleanor Roosevelt, whose perseverance ensured the realisation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

2018 marked 70 years since the signing of the UDHR in the aftermath of the Second World War. As the basis for the contemporary system for combatting inequality across a host of civil, political, social, economic, and cultural fronts, the UDHR has also met unrelenting challenges since its adoption. Even now, human rights appear peculiarly under threat in a global structural way with factors of democratic regression, rises in populism, and new regimes undermining tried and tested forms of human rights law and mechanisms. Against this backdrop, the 70th anniversary of the UDHR provided an ideal waypoint for the AHRI and the Global Justice Academy (GJA) to highlight the need for continued commitment to human rights scholarship and advocacy.

The 2018 AHRI Conference enabled human rights academics and practitioners to come to a city that has both a long connection with rights and an international perspective.

Edinburgh Law School hosts the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) conference

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Professor Drew Scott receives lifetime achievement award

Edinburgh Law School’s Prof Drew Scott received the UACES Lifetime Achievement Award in September 2018.

The University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES) presented their 2018 Lifetime Achievement award to Prof Scott commending “the quality and versatility of [his] thinking and writing about Europe; the inspirational excellence of his teaching and speaking on the subject; and his unstinting public service (a far richer notion than ‘impact’) as academic expert, most crucially at this time with the Scottish government.”

The annual award is presented to individuals who breach the established academic boundaries in European Studies. Prof Scott was presented with the award at the UACES Annual Conference dinner in Bath.

Speaking about his award, Prof Scott said: “It is a great honour to be recognised by UACES in this way. I owe a considerable debt of gratitude to all of those colleagues and students who have supported, inspired and – more realistically – stoically endured me throughout almost 40 years of researching and teaching EU issues. Particular thanks to the students and colleagues here in the Law School and the wider community of the Europa Institute with whom I’ve worked for more than 25 years. Needless to say I’ve have learned more from them than I’ve ever taught them!”
Scottish Feminist Judgments Project: reimagining important legal cases

Over the course of the past year, the Scottish Feminist Judgments Project, co-ordinated by Edinburgh Law School’s Professor Sharon Cowan and Dr Chloe Kennedy, in conjunction with Dr Vanessa Munro from the University of Warwick, has been engaging the profession, politicians, and the public with its interdisciplinary work.

The Scottish Feminist Judgments Project is part of a global series that aims to imagine how important legal cases might have been decided differently if the judge had adopted a feminist perspective. It brings together legal academics, practising lawyers, judges, artistic contributors and representatives from the third section.

The project has been exhibiting some of its work in a number of venues, beginning with the Scottish Parliament last year and concluding with their final exhibition in Glasgow this month. The exhibition has explored, through various media, what it means to be feminist and what we can do better to represent women, both in the law and in public spaces.

The success of the project has seen Dr Cowan and Dr Kennedy make an appearance at RebLaw 2019, and Dr Kennedy invited to speak to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service on International Women’s Day.

You can follow the Project on the SFJP website at www.sfjp.law.ed.ac.uk
Welcome to Professor Nehal Bhuta: Chair of International Law

Professor Nehal Bhuta joins Edinburgh as Chair of International Law from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, where he was Professor of Public International Law.

Prof Bhuta, whose research concerns topics from the regulation of autonomous weapons systems to state-making and state-building in international law, is interested in the ways that we increasingly try to turn local political order into a problem for experts to manage – and whether there might be better approaches to supporting political problem solving through international institutions.

“Building states and political orders has become one of the great international concerns of our time, linked with worries about terrorism, poverty, civil conflict and human rights violations. Improving our approach to such ‘wicked problems’ requires interdisciplinary legal research, and the University of Edinburgh has an amazing range of scholars across Law and Social Sciences, whom we hope to bring together around these questions through the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law.”

Together with Professor Andrew Lang, Prof Bhuta will be co-directing the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law (ECIGL).

The new centre will highlight and promote the exciting and distinctive work on global governance issues being carried out in the School of Law, as well as exploring collaborative projects with scholars from other schools across the University of Edinburgh and beyond.

On developing the ECIGL, the professors said: “We are proud to join an already very dynamic team at Edinburgh Law School, with an extraordinarily deep reserve of international law knowledge and scholarship, as well as excellent legal theorists working on questions of international law, internationalization of constitutional law, global law and theory, and peace settlements, to name a few. Through the new ECIGL, we want to build on the School’s reputation as an international hub for creative work on global governance. We hope to take the Centre forward as a dynamic and exciting intellectual space, creating a dialogue addressing the present crucial questions in the field and producing high-quality scholarship of wider relevance to a broader public.”

First Edinburgh-Glasgow International Law Workshop held at Law School

The inaugural meeting of the Edinburgh-Glasgow International Law Workshop took place from 8th-10th April 2019 at the Edinburgh Law School in Old College.

The event was a joint venture hosted by The Edinburgh Institute for International and Global Law of the Edinburgh Law School and the International Law and Security Research Group of the Glasgow Law School.

The workshop comprised a series of events over the three days, featuring a number of high profile key note speakers, including Gerry Simpson (LSE), Anne Peters (Max Planck Institute for International and Comparative Law), and Joseph HH Weiler (NYU Law).

More than 50 scholars from across the UK, Europe, and beyond were also in attendance. The workshop explored a number of aspects of international law from a variety of perspectives.
On the retirement of Professor Anne Griffiths

By Professor Paul J. du Plessis

Professor Anne Griffiths, noted legal anthropologist and scholar of family law, retired at the end of the academic year 2017/18 following a tenure of almost four decades at the Edinburgh Law School.

Anne joined the Faculty of Law (as it then was) in October 1980, having first qualified as a solicitor in Scotland. Anne’s research encompasses various different strands. These include, according to her research profile: “anthropology of law, comparative and family law, African law, gender, culture and rights. It explores the study of law through an anthropological perspective based on ethnographically grounded in-depth field studies. This perspective highlights people’s understandings, experiences and use of law in everyday life in order to focus on their perspectives on law. It has examined the gendered dimensions of women’s lives over a thirty year period, and has also explored children, young people, and families experiences and perceptions of legal proceedings in Scotland and the USA, in the context of children in need of supervision or care.”

As can be seen from this impressive list of interests, Anne’s scholarship is unapologetically “socio-legal” and operates as a counterpoint to some of the more traditional modes of legal discourse. In fact, as she has noted in her research profile, her research “highlights the importance of law in an interdisciplinary context that has an impact on transnational issues, such as human rights. It contributes to debates on globalisation and access to justice, that seek to reappraise the relationship between international, regional, national and local arenas, and the effects of plural legal orders both within and across these domains.”

The author and editor of countless books and articles in her field, Professor Griffiths has been recognised internationally for her fieldwork in Southern Africa on gender and land tenure.

She has held visiting positions at some of the foremost academic institutions in the world and continues to work closely with colleagues in Anthropology and Sociology both in Edinburgh and abroad. She was also one of the founding members of a European Doctorate in Law and Development (EDOLAD), a collaborative venture across a number of African and European universities. In 2004, she was promoted to a personal chair in anthropology of law, becoming the first female professor in the history of the Edinburgh Law School.

Although retired, Anne continues to pursue her academic interests and is currently finishing another monograph due for publication in 2020. The Law School extends their best wishes to Professor Griffiths in all her future endeavours, and a very happy and well-deserved retirement.
UN Special Envoy speaks on Yemen and the role of women in peace building at the Law School

On Wednesday 24th April, the University of Edinburgh hosted a lecture by Martin Griffiths, UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen. Discussing recent mediation efforts in Yemen and the role of women in peace-making processes, the Special Envoy was in conversation with Lyse Doucet of the BBC.

The UN and the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen supports the Yemeni Voices project: an innovative peace-making project using digital tools to allow Yemenis and other interested stakeholders not formally represented in the peace process to better understand, analyse, and share views about the UN-facilitated process. Yemeni Voices is being developed by the London School of Economics in association with Edinburgh PeaceTech, with the latter being a collaboration between the Edinburgh Law School, the School of Informatics, and Beyond Borders Scotland.

While the Special Envoy was in Edinburgh to deliver the lecture, he also received an update on the Yemeni Voices project, as well as meeting with the Women Technical Advisory Group, which provides guidance around the UN-facilitated peace process.

Prior to this meeting, Martin Griffiths said: “I’m looking forward to meeting with the Women Technical Advisory Group in Edinburgh. They are already making an important contribution to the peace process. The role of women will be incredibly important in securing sustainable peace and rebuilding Yemen. The use of digital tools is also an important new component that can help support inclusive peace-making and I also look forward to hearing about their development from the Yemeni Voices team.”

Professor Christine Bell of the Edinburgh Law School, who leads the PeaceTech collaboration, said in a statement: “This is an exciting first project for the Edinburgh PeaceTech hub, one that will really test what data, connectivity, and technology can do in helping end conflicts. The Yemeni process is still in its early stages, but if we can include more people in shaping what society should look like after the fighting, we hope that it will make the peace more robust.”
Professors McAra and McVie win ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize

At a ceremony in London on the evening of 9th July 2019, Professors Lesley McAra and Susan McVie of the Edinburgh Law School were announced as the winners of an ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize in the Outstanding Public Policy Impact category.

The ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize, which is in its seventh year, recognises “the success of ESRC-funded researchers in achieving and enabling outstanding economic or social impact from excellent social science research”.

Profs McAra and McVie were awarded for the prize for the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime, which looked at youth offending and the impact of interventions. The study was instrumental in a recent decision by the Scottish Government to raise the age of criminal responsibility.

All legal systems set a minimum age at which a young person can be held fully responsible for committing a crime. This is known as the age of criminal responsibility. In Scotland this has been set at age 8 since 1932. It is one of the lowest ages of criminal responsibility in the world and it contravenes international human rights standards. The Scottish government has now decided to raise the age of criminal responsibility to a minimum of 12. In making this decision the Scottish Government has drawn on robust evidence from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime about the negative effects of criminalisation on young people.

The change to the minimum age of criminal responsibility is the culmination of a series of transformations in youth justice policy in Scotland all influenced by Edinburgh Study findings including: transforming the Scottish youth justice policy framework from a target-driven culture predicated on harsh and punitive approaches to a welfare-based and holistic paradigm which emphasised ‘getting it right for every child’ and ‘early and effective intervention’ (from 2006). The national roll-out of a new Whole Systems Approach to dealing with young people in trouble across all 32 Local Authorities (from 2011) resulting in dramatic reductions in youth offending and major reductions (for the first time since records began) in the number of young people held in custody. It also formed the sole basis for major amendments to the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Part 8, section 188), restricting the disclosure status of offences committed in childhood, and enhancing employability amongst young adults.

As a result of all of these changes compared to 2006/07 there are now 14,000 fewer children referred annually to the children’s hearings system, 23,000 fewer under 21s being convicted in Scottish courts annually, and 3,000 fewer under 21s being sent to prison annually. By keeping these young people out of the criminal justice system this has had a substantial beneficial effect on reducing the number of adults in the system in later years.

On winning the award, the professors paid tribute to the young people who took part in their study, saying “this award is for them”.

Dr Murray shortlisted for Herald Higher Education Award

Dr Kath Murray of the Edinburgh Law School and Dr Colin Atkinson of the University of the West of Scotland were announced as finalists for the Herald’s 2019 Higher Education Awards in May.

The awards recognise the achievements of colleges and universities in a number of categories, from students learning and wellbeing to research projects, engagement, and more. Dr Murray and Dr Atkinson have been shortlisted in the category ‘Research Project of the Year’ for their project ‘The integration of British Transport Police in Police Scotland: identifying risks and framing the debate’.

The winners of the awards were announced at a ceremony at the Crowne Plaza, Glasgow, on 5th June.
We have been lucky to receive visits and news from a number of past students over the past year. From authors to state representatives, you are part of a truly eclectic and international community.

Graduate returns to Edinburgh as part of a delegations of Taiwanese Judges

LLM alumna Hsiao-Han (Maggie) Chiu, who graduated in 2005, returned to visit us in September as part of a delegation of Taiwanese judges. The group were hosted by Professor Gerry Maher, Chair of Criminal Law. The trip was designed to help the judges learn about the Scottish criminal justice system. They discussed sentencing and trial by jury.

As part of the three day trip, the group also met with the Scottish Sentencing Council in Edinburgh, the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission in Glasgow and both Lord Carloway (Lord President of the Court of Session) and Lady Dorrian (the Lord Justice Clerk).

Intellectual Property Law graduate wins third prize at the ECTA Awards 2018

Congratulations to LLM in Intellectual Property Law graduate Taryn Fels, who won third place in the ECTA (European Communities Trade Mark Association) Awards in 2018.

Taryn completed her LLM via Online Learning. Her prize-winning dissertation was titled “Liberalised or increasingly hard to register: what does the future hold for colour marks in the EU?”

Taryn said: “My dissertation examined the extent to which the 2015 amendments to both the EU Trade Mark Directive 2008 and the Regulation on the Community Trademark 2009 were likely to impact upon the future registration of colour marks within the EU.”

ECTA represents over 1,500 trade mark practitioners throughout the EU, with the awards having been established to make a significant contribution to the development of this area of law through strengthened links with academia.

Taryn was delighted with her awards success and commented: “It seemed like such a great opportunity for more feedback on a paper that I really enjoyed writing,” she said.
Online LLM graduate secures national director role

Recent LLM graduate, Dr. Kishore Sreenivasan has been appointed Director for a premier intellectual property and informatics research centre in Pune, India.

Kishore secured the role of Director for CSIR-URDIP, a centre for intellectual property analytics and informatics research under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Kishore is delighted with the position. “My role involves leadership in intellectual property analytics and informatics to facilitate development, maintenance, enforcement and monetization of intellectual property stemming from innovations developed in the 38 laboratories of CSIR across India,” he said.

The new role entails a significantly higher level of management, with implications at the national policy level. “I look forward to the challenge of active participation throughout various phases from pre-research and development through to deployment and commercialisation.”

Kishore completed his LLM via online learning in 2017. You can watch a short video interview with Kishore at edin.ac/2G6WZco

LLB alumna authors book of women adventurers

Ailsa Ross, who graduated from the LLB in 2009, has authored an illustrated book telling the stories of women adventurers from around the world.

The book, titled The Woman Who Rode a Shark, was launched on 16th April 2019. It features female adventurers of all ages from across the globe – from Maori activist Whina Cooper, to Nzinga queen of Ndongo, to pilot Amelia Earhart and Victorian explorer Isabella Bird – and has been described by fellow author and University of Edinburgh alumnus Alastair Humphreys as “a fresh, original compilation of adventurous women who have changed the world”. The book is Ailsa’s debut and features original illustrations by Amy Blackwell.

Born and raised in Aberdeenshire, Ailsa grew up watching puffins land on the Scottish cliffs by her childhood home. While studying law at Edinburgh University, she often found herself sneaking off to write stories for the student newspaper. It was during a year spent abroad at Copenhagen University that she decided to become a travel writer. She entered an essay about living in Denmark into a British Council writing competition in 2009 and won the Scottish prize. After graduation, Ailsa travelled the world working odd jobs so she could meet people from around the world, learn from them, and write their stories. Now based in the Canadian Rockies, she has written for Outside, BBC History, and the National Geographic Traveller, and is the founder of the online community Women Adventurers.

On her time at the Law School, Ailsa said: “I’m so glad I studied law at Edinburgh. It was taking courses in gender and justice — and in human rights as they relate to the lives of girls and women around the world — that gave me the foundation and the impetus to write a book about women adventurers through history.”
Alumnus interview
Nice to EU again!

In September, we welcomed back graduate Dr Thomas Horsley to give the 2018/19 LLM in European Law inaugural lecture. Thomas is Senior Lecturer at Liverpool Law School. He graduated with an LLB in 2006, an LLM in 2008 and a PhD in 2011. His most recent work is focussed on analysing the impact of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU on key aspects of the UK constitution and, in particular, the institutional roles of parliament and the UK courts. His new monograph, ‘The Court of Justice of the European Union as an Institutional Actor: Judicial Lawmaking and its Limits’, was published by Cambridge University Press in June 2018.

What made you choose to study law at Edinburgh?
I came here for the open day and I was just really impressed with the history, the institution. I wanted to study in the capital city – you know, Scots law; it was the centre of power. At the time I was studying, the Scottish Parliament was sitting in Edinburgh so it felt like a great place to study law, particularly for someone like me who was always interested in public law. It was a great city, the Old College was fantastic and it felt like a proper university in which to do a proper subject.

What are your enduring memories of your time here?
It raining! And running around lost initially. I was 17 when I arrived so I was very young. I did the Law and German degree so I was rushing between Old College and George Square. I have memories of making good friends, really enjoying the challenges of doing the reading and learning new things, and of course, finding a seat in the old lecture theatres. I remember running into lectures and sitting on the floor, looking at the steamy windows. It was a great city to be in and I was taught by some great people too.

You did your LLB, LLM, and PhD here. How did your experiences differ throughout the three programmes?
When I was doing the LLB, I didn’t really think beyond that degree, at least in terms of an academic career. I am still the first generation of university graduates in my family so I was focused on coming at 17, doing my law degree, and doing a job, probably as a solicitor or an advocate. It was only after I did my Erasmus year in Hamburg that things changed for me. I got an interest in the study of public law and European law, and I started to think I didn’t really want to be a solicitor or advocate. But I didn’t yet know about academic options so I went to the City in London and did what everyone did and worked for a couple of years. I didn’t enjoy that very much and I couldn’t see myself doing that for 40 years. So I got in touch with Professor Niamh Nic Shuibhne who taught me in my final year and it was really her – she was really generous with her time and ideas and supported me into the LLM by Research. She helped to give me a sense of what an academic career could look like and I was fortunate to get AHRC
funding for the LLM and again for the PhD. The experiences are very different. Undergraduate: running around lost, trying to make sense of the university. Then as an LLM, you are focused more on bigger projects and independent research.

**What do you enjoy most about your career in academia?**

What I always go back to is that despite all the pressures we have, in terms of teaching and admin, we are still very privileged to have complete autonomy over our research agenda. That is something I really value – the ability to get up in the morning and scope out a particular area or contribute to a debate and I have full control and ownership of that. So the bit I really like is the intellectual freedom. But I do really enjoy teaching; coming back to Edinburgh to teach is always a great honour, of course. Sharing ideas and supervising PhDs – all the aspects of academic life are enjoyable to me.

**Your research focuses on EU constitutional law. In what ways do you think EU law programmes will continue to be relevant after Brexit?**

My main focus is EU constitutional law and justice and so one of the things I am inevitably doing is a bit of Brexit. There’s very little substance surrounding it and people just don’t know so it’s difficult as an academic to play the long game and ask the big questions as so much of it is journalistic at the moment and changes day to day. I am interested in tracking this and I think as the dust settles we’ll be able to look at some of the legacy issues. When it comes to studying, teaching and researching EU law post-Brexit, I think there will always be a close relationship, as a matter of practical politics, between the two systems. I think we will see a big change in the institutional structures and the nature of that relationship. Of course, the close integration will mean that Scots lawyers, English lawyers, both public and private, will continue, will need, in the globalised world, to understand and really appreciate how EU law works and also the interactions we will have. This is an issue that the University of Edinburgh has addressed before and is uniquely qualified to address. The Europa Institute, which was set up 50 years ago in November, was set up five years before the UK joined the then EEC. We were already looking in from outside so we have gone full circle, if you like. There will be challenges undoubtedly but there are also some opportunities. We are continuing to educate the next generation and pioneer research into EU law, but also fill that new space. It’s an interesting time with lots of opportunities for teaching and research.

You can discover more about Thomas’s current work by following him on Twitter @ThomasHorsleyEU

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**1974 Football Squad meet in the Old College Quad**

Rodger McGuire and his teammates returned to Old College for a trip down memory lane and a photoshoot back in August. Rodger commented:

“This photo was taken at the Old Quad with a group of lads comprising Edinburgh Law alumni and other students, who got together in the early 1970s and formed a woefully unsuccessful football team called Ajax Old Quad! Great times were had by all, but not on the football pitch! Following on from these humble beginnings, all the lads enjoyed stellar (non-footballing) careers…and the foundation stone was knowing how to handle failure…often!”

From left to right: Ed Targowski, Dougie Robertson, Jock Meikle, Rodger McGuire, John White, Pete Gilmartin, Stuart Stoker
What inspired you to go into politics?

Public service, not politics is what inspired me to enter the realm of elective office. It is an awesome responsibility to represent a constituency and to know you are advocating on behalf of your friends, neighbors, and folks you see around town. My family is not political, so when I convinced my parents to listen to Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole deliver a tarmac speech 24 hours prior to the polls closing in 1996, they knew my course in life might be non-traditional.

I have always believed in fighting for the underdog and the less privileged and the political arena is where my talents shine. From being student-body president in high school to serving on my college’s board of trustees and later to serving on town council, I have found success in being a leader and making a positive impact for my community.

Why did you choose the Edinburgh Law School for your LLB and LLM?

After graduating from undergrad at Colorado Mesa University, I knew I wanted to study in the United Kingdom. In 2007, I took a trip to Great Britain to scout universities and to attend a wedding in Edinburgh. A group of students at the wedding showed me around the university and the city and I instantly fell in love with Edinburgh. I had been considering a couple of English universities outside of London, but ultimately the University of Edinburgh was the only institution I applied to, as I knew that is where I wanted to study. I liked the international reputation of the University of Edinburgh, the feel of Old College, and the charm of the city.

My path in law and politics has been fairly non-traditional, as I earned my LLM prior to earning my LLB. Originally, I had planned on only one degree from Edinburgh, but wanted to continue my time in Scotland and my pursuit of law. Being accepted into the LLB program allowed me to stay and to read law. The three and a half years I spent in Edinburgh were the best and I think fondly of my uni days. Upon returning to the US, I earned an American law degree from the University of New Hampshire.

While I never practiced law in the UK, the foundation in law is incredibly valuable.

What are some of your memories of your time at the Law School? How did your experience differ between LLB and LLM?

I recall spending hours and hours reading in Old College and the Main Library. The friendships and adventures with friends are what really come to mind. Often a group of us would have a pint or two at the Advocate, Doctors, or Brass Monkey, often continuing the conversation begun in our tutorials or seminars. Being an international student, I tried to share my culture from the US. One Thanksgiving, I attempted to buy a turkey and...
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it was too small! A friend helped out and we had an epic meal. We had many dinners at each other’s flats on the weekends and it was an experience of a lifetime to get to make friends around the globe.

The LLB was pretty intense. There were a lot of cases and law to memorize. I tended to have a lot more friends from Scotland, England, and the Commonwealth during the LLB, as opposed to the LLM, where the majority of my classmates were from all over the world.

Another memory which stands out was watching Iain Macwhirter installed as rector. As luck would have it I ended up being invited to a reception and visiting with then-Chancellor HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. To this day, it is still surreal to recall that conversation.

The LLM and LLB complimented each other. The LLM was more research-based and academic in terms of pondering great ideas. The LLB was all about getting through a ton of information and being able to talk on the subjects during tutorials. One night in 2008, I had been studying late in the graduate computer lab in Old College. I walked out the door near the South Bridge entrance only to realize the gate was closed and locked. At that time there wasn’t a swipe lock and I couldn’t get back inside the school to properly exit on Chamber Street. I ended up calling the police and having to explain I was locked inside Old College, but outside. It was quite embarrassing, but the story has garnered many laughs over the years.

Especially during the summer and autumn, I played lots of tennis at the Meadows. Friends and I would play doubles; sometimes singles when the weather was good, then we’d rush back inside to study when the weather changed. On the topic of sports, a group of us law students rode our bikes one weekend to Berwick-upon-Tweed. It didn’t take long to realize my three speed bike was a single speed...

How do you think your studies at the Law School helped you get to the Colorado House of Representatives?

Studying law at Edinburgh has been a tremendous asset as a member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Edinburgh taught me how to think and a different way of studying than is typical in the United States. The rich, deep history of seeing how law developed in Rome and how it was received in the United States. The rich, deep history of seeing how law developed in Rome and how it was received in Scotland has proven useful as legal debates are recycled from one generation to the next; each having to justify keeping or expanding a rule.

As a legislator, I have used old law text books as a resource; even though the laws may be different, the legal concepts are valuable to use during debates and to see if there is a better way to word a bill or amendment.

What are you most hoping to achieve in your role as a representative?

My biggest hope for this legislative session is criminal justice reform, more specifically bail reform. I am the prime sponsor of legislation that seeks to end cash bail for low level petty offences. These are offences that typically bond between $50 and $250.

Courts across America are holding wealth-based detention to be unconstitutional as a violation of the equal protection clause of the constitution. Other cases have considered wealth-based detention to violate the 8th Amendment (excessive bail shall not be required) and British-American sacrosanct doctrine of innocent until proven guilty.

Sitting in jail because a person cannot pay a $100 is coercing them to plead guilty to get out of jail. These cases are things like illegal u-turns, loitering, smoking in public, parking violations etc. This bill will save jail space for dangerous offenders.

Another aspect of bail reform is the implementation of pre-trial services, which allows an accused to be released on a personal recognizance bond. These services can vary from merely agreeing to conditions of release to monitoring the subject. The cost to the taxpayers for pre-trial services is a fraction of what it costs to detain an individual in jail prior to trial. I am working on a bill to fund pre-trial services to move Colorado away from being a wealth-based detention state to a risk assessment state.

Criminal justice reform is a major issue and bail and pre-trial services are only the beginning. I would not be leading the charge but for the influence from my education at the Edinburgh Law School.
The new Old College

We are thrilled to report that the eagerly anticipated move back to our home in Old College has taken place. Students, staff and visitors have been enjoying the new facilities and we would encourage you to come and explore the fantastic refurbishment.

Although the historic building has seen a number of alterations over the course of its long life, this is the first time that such a holistic refurbishment project has been undertaken. The result is that we have had the opportunity to amend some of the quirkier configurations that were not so conducive to ease of use and show off the character of the building at its best while making the School welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable to use.

One of the biggest changes is the brand new central stairwell, which contains 200 tonnes of steel beams. It acts as the spine of the building, letting you walk from bottom to top in one continuous sweep of helixing steps. The central staircase has been designed to echo the form of the Old College’s famous cantilevered stairs by Robert Adam and William Playfair, and makes for an impressive sight. Embedded in the centre of the staircase is lift ensuring that the entire building is accessible to all who work, study and visit the School.
Radiating out from this central pin, long corridors allow you to see from one end of the building to the other, lined with refreshed teaching rooms in serene historic shades, but featuring the latest in pedagogical technologies. The colours used throughout the building are based on scrapings taken from the original paintwork, which we discussed in more detail in last year’s newsletter. (You can see the archive of alumni newsletters at law.ed.ac.uk/alumni)
At the heart of this refurbishment are our students, and we now have a series of open and comfortable dedicated socialising spaces within the core of the School. Already we have seen more students using the facilities than ever before, and the School is buzzing with energy. The Law Library is a particular success story, with a wonderful octagonal layout that mirrors the unique form of the Adam Lecture Theatre directly above, and an impressive facelift for what is now the stunning Senate Room.
To follow good news with more good, in February of this year we were excited to hear that the Law School had been shortlisted for a Scottish RICS Award in the Building Conservation category. This recognition was a testament to all the hard work that has gone into the project by everyone involved, and it was gratifying to see that their efforts had not gone unnoticed. But we did not embark upon the refurbishment with thoughts of awards and accolades: it was always about breathing new life into a landmark of the university and the city of Edinburgh, and on that count we’re all agreed that the project has been a huge success.

Doors Open Day 2019
Now that you’ve seen a preview of the newly refurbished Law School, we warmly invite you to visit us on Doors Open Day 2019 on 28th September. Learn more on page 24.
Notices

As an Edinburgh Law School alumnus, you are an integral part of our community. Find out what’s coming up and how you can get involved with School life.

New Law School website

After a lot of hard work by the project team, the Law School is thrilled to unveil our brand new website.

Designed to make it easier and more enjoyable for students, alumni, and staff to connect with the School and keep up to date with the latest news and events, the website is fresh and reflects the recent changes we have seen at the School.

Why not explore it yourself at www.law.ed.ac.uk

Mentoring with Platform One

The Law School will soon pilot a mentoring scheme for undergraduate students in order to allow them to take advantage of valuable insights into a range of career across Edinburgh.

Our alumni are warmly welcomed to take part in this scheme as volunteer mentors. If you are interested in being involved with mentoring for the coming academic year (2019/2020) please email Director of Alumni Relations, Michelle Burgis-Kasthala at m.burgis-kasthala@ed.ac.uk, or learn more about the University mentoring programme by signing up to Platform One at: www.ed.ac.uk/alumni/services/platform-one
EDIT features Law School students

Some of our current students studying for their Diploma in Professional Legal Practice recently spoke to the University-wide alumni publication, EDIT, about their views as women about to enter the legal profession.

The article looks at some of the challenges women still face in the field of law, as well as showcasing the ambition and determination of the next generation of female law practitioners in Scotland. You can find the article in the most recent issue of EDIT.

Photo credit: Chris Close

Doors Open Day 2019

As part of the Cockburn Association's Doors Open Day, the Law School will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday 28th September.

If you are unable to make our official opening, and are able to be in Edinburgh this weekend, please do come along and see the fantastic new facilities in Old College. We will be holding a series of guided tours and Professor John Cairns will be giving a talk on the history of the Law School and Old College. The full schedule and registration information will be published at www.law.ed.ac.uk/about-us.

Guest lectures at the Edinburgh Law School

We were pleased to welcome Bryan Stevenson to deliver the 2019 Ruth Adler Memorial Lecture on Monday 8th July as part of the summer graduation celebrations. Tickets for the lecture sold out quickly, and due to high demand the event was also live streamed, attracting a large online audience.

Bryan is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. He also received an honorary degree from the Law School at the graduation ceremony on Tuesday 9th July.

On 1 October a second Ruth Adler lecture will take place, co-hosted by ECIGL, delivered by Professor Philip Alston whose recent work as the UN’s Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in relation to the UK has attracted the attention of the media.

Coming up later in the year, Karina McTeague will be delivering a guest lecture as part of the winter graduation programme of events. Karina started her career as a corporate lawyer before moving into banking. In 2013 she joined the Financial Conduct Authority as the Director of Retail Banking Supervision, prior to which she was Chief Risk Officer for Lloyds Banking Group in North America.

Look out for details of all these guest lectures on our events listings at www.law.ed.ac.uk/news-events/events
We love hearing from our alumni. If you have news to share with us, you can contact us by post, email, telephone, or through our social media channels.

The alumni newsletter is published once a year, but if you’d like to receive more frequent updates on news and events at the Law School, drop us an email to be added to our mailing list.

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