



Strategy 2020

University Leadership Team

University News

## PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

**In this update:****People | Success | Campus Conversations**

Colleagues,

It will not be long before we break for Christmas and the New Year, but before the end of our semester we have some key deadlines – submission of our Enhancement-led Institutional Review Reflective Analysis, submission of our Athena Swan application, and just before Christmas, we will receive the outcome of our submission to the Research Excellence Framework. More about these will be in my newsletter next month.

**People**

Last week I hosted a dinner at Craigmlockhart for **Catherine Walker** to mark her dedication and commitment to maintaining our War Poets collection. Catherine retired in Summer 2013 after 23 years at Edinburgh Napier but has continued to work part-time as curator.

As you can imagine there have been very high levels of media interest in the collection in this the Centenary year of the First World War, and Catherine has repeatedly made herself available for interview, provided valuable background briefings to journalists and ensured the collection is ready for filming, while continuing to engage visitors with her knowledge about the lives of the war poets and stories of Craigmlockhart.



I also wanted to tell you about the work of **Clare McGhee**, a colleague in Information Services who uses her considerable talent to help Catherine with anything that needs artistic input – such as the biographical information folders of Craigmlockhart Memories. You might be interested to see some of her work on the **Six of the Best exhibition website**.

**Success**

I am delighted to let you know that a collaboration between Bright Red Publishing and Edinburgh Napier has been highly commended at the Interface Innovation of the Year Awards, for an interactive website geared towards helping secondary school pupils tackle the new National 5 exams.

The **Digital Zone site** has allowed pupils to undertake their tutorial questions before checking the answer online. If it is different to what they have, the site will then show the complete working-out.

Congratulations to Bill Buchanan and Bright Red Publishing for this innovation.

### **Moredun MOU**

Earlier this month I signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **Professor Julie Fitzpatrick** of the Moredun Group.



Our partnership with the Moredun Research Institute, renowned internationally for research that promotes livestock health and wellbeing, will build on our long-standing and successful relationship, promote more collaboration, provide development opportunities for staff and open up new areas for joint research.

### **Robert Louis Stevenson day**

On 13 November I introduced a discussion at the Faculty of Advocates to mark Robert Louis Stevenson day. The conversation on aspects of the works and life of Robert Louis Stevenson, was chaired by Allan Little with guests Louise Welsh and Nigel Planer. It formed part of a series of events that took place as part of the annual celebration of **RLSDay**, now in its fourth year.

I would like to thank **Linda Dryden** and our Centre for Literature and Writing and Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, who helped to make the day such a success.

You can read more about Linda's work on the **City of Literature website**.

## **Campus Conversations**

I and my colleagues on the University Leadership team recently held a Campus Conversation with our students and the NSA, focused around the themes of active learning, academic support, internationalisation, innovation in our spaces, work experience and the curriculum. It was good to hear directly from our students; their insights will prove very helpful as we develop our Student Experience 2020 Strategy.



In our January 2015 conversations we will focus on action plans arising from the Academic and Internationalisation strategies. Our academic plans feed in to the Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) that will be taking place in Spring 2015.

### **Dates for your diary:**

- **Craiglockhart Campus** - Tuesday 20 January, 1.30 - 3.30pm, Rivers Suite
- **Merchiston Campus** - Wednesday 21 January, 1.30 - 3.30pm, B32

- **Sighthill Campus** - Thursday 22 January, 1.30 - 3.30pm, LRC 5

Please use the voting buttons to reserve your place or email [ideaevents@napier.ac.uk](mailto:ideaevents@napier.ac.uk). Please RSVP so that we can plan table numbers; the conversations will be interactive.

## Get in touch

I am always interested in hearing your feedback and views on University matters (no matter how small or large!). I still have two sessions at Merchiston and Sighthill before Christmas to meet colleagues on an individual or small group basis. Please email [principal@napier.ac.uk](mailto:principal@napier.ac.uk) to book a time slot. I look forward to seeing you.

### **Merchiston Campus**

Monday 8 December - 11.30am -12.30pm

### **Sighthill Campus**

Tuesday 2 December - 1.30 - 2.30pm

Kind regards



---

#### **Edinburgh Napier University**

Sighthill Campus  
Sighthill Court  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4BN

**T.** 0131 455 6400

**E.** [principal@napier.ac.uk](mailto:principal@napier.ac.uk)

**W.** [staff.napier.ac.uk/principal](http://staff.napier.ac.uk/principal)

#### **Social media**

