



RED TRIANGLE

2022

The difference maker who
wants to change the stigma
surrounding homelessness.
More on pages 18-21.

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



Alumni &
Friends
Magazine

RED TRIANGLE

2022

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Keep connected

Produced by Edinburgh Napier University Alumni and Development Team.

Executive Editors: Miia MacDougall & Barbara Kidd. **Editor/Writer:** Melanie Sims. **Designer:** Harriet Short.
Creative Coordinator: Gillian Whisker. **Photography:** Curse these Eyes (Front cover), Allan Shedlock, Neil Shearer,
Maxime Ragni, Marc Marshall, Julie Skarratt, Marcus Brandt, Brian Anderson, Emma Ledwith.
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Welcome

Dear **Alumni and Friends,**

Welcome to the latest edition of Red Triangle! I appreciate that this is the first in a little while, largely due to the impact of the pandemic and the associated uncertainty on all aspects of our work. However, we have taken that time to reimagine and redesign the magazine to create an engaging publication that showcases difference makers from across the Edinburgh Napier community who are making an impact across society.

I hope you enjoy the wide variety of features, including our front cover star, Zakia Moulaoui Guery, an inspiring young woman tackling the stigma around homelessness. You can also learn about our Alumni of the Year winners—individuals who are undertaking amazing work in diverse fields—as well as discovering how Edinburgh Napier is keeping Scotland at the vanguard of mountain biking innovation, supporting Scottish tourism recovery, leading cyber security education and research, and pioneering future treatments for the common cold.

What is clear, is that our community is at the frontline of innovative action, applying a spirit of discovery and enterprise and working together across disciplines to develop solutions that make a real difference. We are leveraging the partnerships and connections of our global community to help develop the people and ideas that can drive the post-pandemic recovery. And the knowledge, expertise and experience of Edinburgh Napier alumni and friends are vital components of this endeavour. You are creating opportunities, forging partnerships, opening-up pathways and supporting the next generation of talent in a variety of ways, such as providing work placements, mentorship and funding ENCourage Scholarships.

In a year that saw us retain our position as the top university in Edinburgh for student satisfaction and move into the top ten modern universities across the whole UK, we were delighted that our new Chancellor, Will Whitehorn, began his tenure conferring degrees to over 1,000 new graduates when we returned to in-person graduations in the autumn. It was a very special occasion. You can find out more about Will on pages 4-5.

During the year we were also named the top university in Scotland for sustainability. People and Planet awarded us the only 2:1 rating in Scotland!



This fantastic news came in the same week that we launched our Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Read more about our growing influence in partnership and sustainability on pages 32-33.

What this uncertain and challenging time has highlighted to me is the significance of community and connectedness—this was so in evidence as we navigated our way through the pandemic together. The Alumni Team is here to serve you and to celebrate all that we can achieve together—the team effort that is the story of our University and the ways that your achievements can inspire many others as we journey forward.

I hope you enjoy the magazine and the stories of Edinburgh Napier as the home of difference makers. We welcome feedback, so if you would like to share what you think about the magazine then please get in touch.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Nolan'.

Andrea Nolan
Principal & Vice Chancellor



Meet our new Chancellor ***Will Whitehorn***

Will Whitehorn reflects on doffing his cap over a thousand times at his first graduations and his aim to become an intelligent social media influencer for the University.

Edinburgh-born former Virgin Group executive and current chair of UKspace, Will Whitehorn, was formally installed as Edinburgh Napier's fourth Chancellor in August 2021. One of his first engagements for the University was graduations in October – the first in-person graduations in two years.

"I had a fabulous time at the graduations," says Will. "I felt inspired by the enthusiasm of the graduates and inspired by the fact that so many people had come from so many places around the world. And there were some who hadn't managed to attend the University for part of their degrees because of Covid. And yet there they were."





Indeed, Will has been particularly impressed by how the University has coped with the many challenges thrown up by Covid.

"My impression from going around the departments, meeting the Deans, and traveling around the University is that through Covid, it has not been moribund. It has engaged in the need to keep going."

So, what attracted Will to the role of Chancellor and what does he feel he can bring to the University?

"I love education and I engage with it more than many business people do. The idea of getting closer to education in the world that I'm in was very attractive. In the work that I do, which is mainly tech related, particularly space tech, it's crucial that we get the right young people. We need all sorts of skills.

"At Edinburgh Napier, I've been impressed by the fact that so many people coming out of it are getting jobs very quickly. There's a can-do attitude. And, of the students I met at graduation, I was impressed by the lack of shyness. I didn't spot a huge number of shrinking violets in my experience that week."

"As Chancellor, hopefully I'll be a little bit like an intelligent social media influencer. By engaging as intelligently as I can with the parts of the academic institution that I'm involved with, I can help them think about the world outside. I can apply skills and thought patterns I've developed as a non-executive director elsewhere."

And Will is looking forward to meeting more of the Edinburgh Napier community, including our alumni:

"I'm sure I will meet more of our alumni. It's like any ecosystem, once the electrons running around in it, the positive and negative charges, know that the other charge exists, they will be attracted towards it. Alumni might read this magazine, sitting at an event in London, or elsewhere, and they can now walk up and say hello – that wouldn't happen if they didn't know I was Chancellor."

Who is Will Whitehorn?

The Edinburgh-born President of industry group UKspace became Chancellor in August, taking over from Dr David Eustace.

A former executive at the Virgin Group, he also holds boardroom roles at The Scottish Gallery Employee Ownership Trust, Scottish Event Campus, Craneware, Good Energy, AAC Clyde Space AB, and Seraphim Space Investment Trust PLC, the world's first quoted space technology investment fund.

Educated at Edinburgh Academy and the University of Aberdeen, Will spent his early career as a crewman on North Sea search-and-rescue helicopters. After stints at Thomas Cook, TSB Group and Lombard Communications, he was recruited to Virgin to boost the Group's image in the City and became a key lieutenant to Sir Richard Branson. He worked on a series of major Virgin projects, including the Pendolino train, and later took up the post of President at Virgin Galactic.

After moving on from Virgin Galactic as it entered a new stage of development, he returned to brand and communications work, also holding board positions at Purplebricks, Stagecoach, and Transport Systems Catapult.

Will is married to Alison and is stepfather to her three children. He also has two children with his previous wife Lou. He lives with Alison, along with cats Bob and Marley and dog Mia, on a smallholding in West Sussex where he enjoys raising cattle, growing his own veg, and rewilding parts of his land.

The power of

CYCLING



**How Edinburgh
Napier University
is contributing to
Scotland's mountain
biking success story**

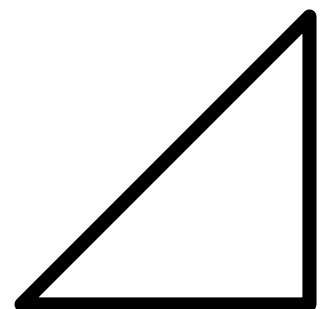
Our work is helping to keep Scotland at the vanguard of mountain biking innovation, delivering economic benefits, stimulating enterprise and changing lives and livelihoods for the better.

Edinburgh Napier is playing a crucial role in the achievement of Scotland's vision to be recognised as the leader of European mountain biking.

Geraint Florida-James, Professor of Applied Sports Science, who has been deeply involved in Scotland's mountain biking success story over the past 20 years, explains how the University's expertise is pushing forward the future of biking.

"Scotland has a reputation as one of the world's top mountain biking destinations. A hugely popular sport and leisure activity, mountain biking is also big business – it's estimated that the industry contributes around £150m annually to the Scottish economy. At Edinburgh Napier, we are well plugged into this industry, contributing knowledge and expertise across exercise science, health and wellbeing, engineering, design, sustainability, big data and tourism.

"We've been at the forefront of some significant initiatives, not least of which, is the Mountain Biking Centre of Scotland (MTBCOS) – the world's first open innovation centre for mountain biking. Hosted by us, in partnership with Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS) and Scottish Enterprise, MTBCOS has delivered a new model for biking innovation and business development through collaborative knowledge exchange. To date, it has supported over 250 businesses, as well as building partnerships with cycling and manufacturing industry bodies, and informing Scotland's National Strategy for Mountain Biking – the world's first Government-sponsored strategy of its kind. It has also played a central role in securing £19m of investment from the Borderlands Regional Growth Deal to create a mountain biking innovation hub, which will allow us to take our work to a whole new level.



The power of **CYCLING**

"Our ability to gather and test data excites and informs the industry and we are making an impact through the range and quality of the expertise we can offer. For example, we help some of the world's top cyclists improve their performance through the work of ultra-endurance sport researcher, Dr Lesley Ingram-Sills, and investigate the impact of biking on elite athletes and the prevention of harm through vibration exposure research, a crucial area of interest to the industry, and to public health, as it puts cyclists at risk of nerve damage. With the increased drive to get more of us using bikes for active travel, the research of Dr Mark Taylor and researcher Dr Lewis Kirkwood, looking at vibration and how to mitigate it, has wide application with significant commercial potential. Pioneering work is also underway in the realm of mental health, with Dr Tony Westbury investigating a nature-based project which supports the therapeutic techniques delivered by mental health professionals to accelerate recovery, under the banner of 'Trail Therapy'. Our partner DMBinS, have appointed a Trail Therapy MTB Leader to deliver this project, which has NatureScot as its main funder.

"We are also influencing and supporting some incredible graduate talent. For example, Chris Ball, who I worked with on an innovative sports science support programme at Edinburgh Napier, has since founded the Enduro World Series, while Ross O'Reilly is producing innovative, sustainable bike products – to name just two! (You can read more about Chris and Ross overleaf).

"Partnership has underpinned our approach right from the start. Back in 2012, Moira Forsyth, an Edinburgh Napier alumnus based in the Innovation Directorate of Scottish Enterprise, asked me to collaborate on identifying growth initiatives for the mountain biking sector. Together with Graeme McLean from Scottish Cycling, we embarked on an exploratory road trip around Scotland, encouraging anyone with ideas around mountain biking to speak with us. This was a very

different model of engagement and through it we built relationships with riders, developers and innovators in a new way. That work kickstarted wider partnership working which established a consortium model that has brought together all the major players across the Scottish industry. The eventual result was the creation of MTBCOS.

"And partnership working beyond Scotland underpins continuing impact. MTBCOS is an invited founding member of Cycling Industries Europe – a new trade association for companies working in the cycling sector – and Dr Tom Campbell is currently leading a major project (DIRTT) with European partners to progress the development of a robust education programme for trail building and maintenance professionals and volunteers.





"We help some of the world's top cyclists improve their performance"

A Glentress Mountain Bike Trail

"What we're demonstrating is the power of cycling. As we develop the new mountain biking innovation hub at Caerlee Mill, Innerleithen with our partners, along with the planned Tweed Valley Bike Park and Trail Lab, we will create an infrastructure which is a global first in terms of combining tourism and innovation. Our work is helping to keep Scotland at the vanguard of mountain biking innovation, delivering economic benefits, stimulating enterprise and changing lives and livelihoods for the better."



**Professor Geraint
Florida-James**

is the Academic lead at the Mountain Bike Centre of Scotland. He is a founding member of the UK Society for Exercise Immunology and an editor of the Journal of Science in Cycling. He has worked with numerous start-ups and SMEs on product development in cycling and has coached many professional athletes competing across the mountain bike disciplines.

The power of **CYCLING**

**Enterprising
alumni making
a difference**

CHRIS BALL

Enduro entrepreneur

Chris Ball is the founder and Managing Director of the Enduro Sports Organisation, and owner and operator of the Enduro World Series (EWS).

Founded in 2012, the EWS held its first race in Punta Ala in Italy the following year, and now has a network of events that operate across 35 countries in five continents. In April 2021 the EWS received a significant investment from US media giant Discovery Inc, allowing the company to rapidly expand its Innerleithen-based operation.

Chris explains more: "When I started the EWS, enduro was a new discipline to mountain biking and it has been incredible to watch it grow and evolve over the last few years. The EWS family of events now incorporates everything from grass roots Qualifier races, that allow up and coming young athletes to hone their skills close to home, to the main EWS series which sees the world's top athletes compete at the very pinnacle of the sport. The Enduro Sports Organisation now employs 13 people from its base in the Tweed Valley, but its reach extends globally, with races under the Enduro World Series banner taking place as far afield as Nepal, South Africa, Chile and Iceland."

Graduating from Edinburgh Napier in 2006 with a degree in Sports Science, Chris began his career in cycling by setting up his own mountain bike coaching company, Dirt School. This led on to the creation of the Scottish Downhill Academy and a position with Scottish Cycling,



Chris Ball



Enduro World Series Chile 2018

followed by several years working as the technical delegate for the Switzerland based UCI, cycling's international governing body.

"Dirt School lives on and is now part of the Tweed Valley Group, which also incorporates Tweed Valley Bikes and Tweed Valley Guides. As well as private and group coaching, the School has delivered the Borders Academy of Sporting Excellence (BASE) Mountain Biking course in collaboration with Borders College for over ten years. BASE has supported students to not only become better mountain bikers but gain skills that are transferable to work within the wider bike industry and beyond, and has seen the likes of Downhill World Champion Reece Wilson pass through its ranks."

Chris maintains a close relationship with Edinburgh Napier through his work with the Mountain Bike Centre of Scotland and currently employs six University alumni.

Find out more: www.enduroworldseries.com

ROSS O'REILLY

Brand creator

Ross O'Reilly is a Product Design graduate from Edinburgh Napier who designs and manufactures a range of on-bike storage for cyclists, allowing them to transport everything from tents and clothes to food and tools. In just a few short years, he's created one of the most respected brands in the bikepacking market.

"I launched Straight Cut in 2018. I'd always been into riding and racing bikes, and after graduating I went to work in a bike shop but really wanted to use my knowledge and start my own brand. I hadn't been able to find cycle bags that were high quality and suited my needs, so I thought maybe I could design my own.

"I bought a sewing machine and taught myself to sew, learning all the technical aspects as I went. A little over a year on from launching Straight Cut, I'd designed and manufactured over a hundred custom bags for my customers; sales were coming in quicker than expected and then I was shortlisted for a prestigious innovation award!

"I really love what I do, from researching the mechanics and process of sewing, design and materials, to deconstructing clothes and bags in my head, to work out how I can improve them. And being based in Scotland is a real advantage. We have to ride in the worst weather, so every bag and accessory I produce is tested in the most demanding in-field conditions.

"The brand is growing which is really exciting and I've moved my business into a design studio in the heart of Edinburgh and brought on new team members. I'm now working for a wide range of customers and on projects with companies such as Gore Wear and Salomon."

Find out more: www.straightcutdesign.com



Ross O'Reilly

Coming to Scotland: the world's largest cycling event

In August 2023, history will be made by men, women and children on bikes when Scotland hosts the inaugural Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Cycling World Championships. Craig Burn, Director of Strategy, Policy and Impacts for the event, explains: "We plan to showcase the unique power of the bike and all it can bring to our everyday lives, through this competition of global magnitude and a range of supporting activities. Working in collaboration with wider partners – such as Edinburgh Napier – we will amplify the event's impact and create additional opportunities, enhancing its legacy effect. One of the reasons Scotland was so attractive for this event is that the pioneering work Edinburgh Napier has been driving forward has helped to create an outstanding biking culture. Working together, we have created a model of partnership working which has delivered transformational change – increasing participation, building the industry and supporting innovation. Now we can use the Championships to further promote, and give political focus to biking, so we can achieve even more for the future."

Find out more:
www.cyclingworldchamps.com

Our Alumni Award winners

Edinburgh Napier alumni across the world are delivering change, making a difference and supporting their communities. We are immensely proud of the impact you have, and each year we seek to formally recognise individuals who are role models for our current students and an inspiration to the entire ENU community. Red Triangle went to meet the 2021 winners.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

JANET DOWNIE

YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

HAZINA ALLADIN

HIGHLY COMMENDED

RÓISÍN NÍ CHATHÁIN



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

JANET DOWNIE

Inspirational Chief Executive of leading gene therapy manufacturer RoslinCT

"I didn't start out my career with the goal of being a Chief Executive; what's driven me is a strong work ethic, sheer determination and a desire to succeed in whatever I set my mind to. After graduating with a degree in Biological Sciences, my early industry training at Inveresk Research (a leading provider of drug development services) helped to establish my career. It was there that I developed an interest in Quality Assurance (QA) and Good Manufacturing Practice. I moved on to a QA role at PPL Therapeutics, a company at the forefront of biotechnology innovation based on the technology used to create Dolly, the world's first cloned sheep, among other pioneering work. From there, I joined Charles River Laboratories for a few years before taking up an opportunity with Roslin Cells, initially as Quality Manager.

"I guess I might have described that role as my dream job. At the start, there was just a team of three scientists in a research lab producing pluripotent stem cells (cells that have the ability to develop into every cell type in the body). We developed the business over a number of years and I went on to become Chief Operating Officer. In 2015, I spun out RoslinCT from Roslin Cells and as CEO, built the team and the business to where we are now."

Cell and gene therapy is at the forefront of healthcare innovation and is one of the fastest-growing areas of therapeutics. It has the potential to cure certain diseases and to transform patient treatments. RoslinCT works to bring these life-saving therapies to market. Through its cutting-edge process development and manufacturing capabilities, it provides a pathway to commercialisation for leading biotech and life sciences companies from the US, the UK and Europe, which are developing treatments to tackle diseases such as strokes, blood disorders and age related macular degeneration.

"This is a very exciting sector to be part of. The field of cell and gene therapies is currently flourishing and there is huge interest from investors. Part of our challenge at RoslinCT is growing fast enough to keep up with demand. In 2021 we opened a new facility in the Edinburgh BioQuarter that doubled our manufacturing capacity. We're currently a team of 140 but plan to number 200 within another six months, with further facility developments in the pipeline.

"Having an entrepreneurial spirit and a conscientious work ethic have been at the heart of my approach, and I assimilated those qualities into my mindset from my parents who are very hard working. I think my resilience and calmness under pressure, which has been invaluable in navigating the many challenges over the years, were also fostered by my upbringing.

"I realised early in my career that putting quality at the heart of the business and providing excellent service is key. I've focused on combining my experience of commercial business, quality assurance and managing people to develop a holistic view of how to run a company effectively in a highly regulated, innovative sector. I also hugely enjoy playing a role in bringing potentially life-changing therapies to market."

A proud Edinburgh Napier graduate, Janet says she has seen first-hand the benefits of the applied nature of the courses and the support the University provides to its students.

"Having recruited many employees over the years, and now in a leadership position, I have developed an even greater appreciation of Edinburgh Napier's passion for connecting with industry and striving to ensure students are provided with the necessary skills.

"So, I am thrilled to have received this Alumni Award and delighted to be reconnected with the University through our joint work with the Advanced Therapies Skills Network. I'm looking forward to building stronger links in the coming months as we grow the talent pool in advanced therapies, vaccines and the wider life sciences sector."

YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

HAZINA ALLADIN

Hazina is a dedicated and talented young professional, who overcame traumatic personal loss while studying at Edinburgh Napier to forge a career focused on helping some of the most vulnerable in society.

In her role as a Mission Support Specialist for Community Partnerships, within the Human Trafficking Task Force at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, a passionate desire to reduce victimisation drives Hazina's exceptional work. She develops effective approaches and strengthens partnerships to better tackle human trafficking, as well as working with Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Specialists to support human trafficking survivors. Her efforts have been recognised through a number of awards and commendations from survivor-led NGOs, including New York City Council, for her determination to help survivors as they begin a new life.

As an inspirational young leader, Hazina was recently invited to join the Forbes Women Forum, a networking platform for leading women in business to share ideas, drive change and offer inspiration.

"I have always had an interest in working in this field and after learning about the scope and scale of modern-day slavery, fighting human trafficking became a personal passion of mine. Having been directly affected by five homicide events in my family, which put at risk two young children, a toddler and a baby to trafficking, my desire to respond was heightened. So, throughout my career my ambition has remained steadfast: raise awareness, reduce risk of victimisation and educate members of the general public. I want to be a voice for the voiceless. I was born in Trinidad but have made the US my home and one of the things I'm most proud of, is the opportunity to give back to my home country through the work I am doing.

"As a young, values-driven leader, I'm conscious that I'm often the youngest in the room leading a team, and in a generally male-dominated profession too. While my passion to assist some of the most vulnerable in society pushes me forward, I want to enable my team to make a difference, so I look to identify the strengths of each individual and give them opportunities to do what they're best at. My style is to lead by delegating and helping others to grow.

"The people who have facilitated connections through my career, and the paths those connections led me on, have been important. I'm grateful for that support which is why I want to support others on their career journeys and build their confidence too. I want to inspire and encourage other women professionals to communicate, collaborate and conquer for the common good! For me, women's leadership isn't about gender, it's about being yourself – your whole self."

HIGHLY COMMENDED



RÓISÍN NÍ CHATHÁIN

Róisín is a passionate advocate for her profession who is deeply committed to building opportunities that help others to succeed.

Since graduating from Edinburgh Napier, Róisín has become a Chartered Architectural Technologist and recently appointed Partner at BPTW, an award-winning architecture and planning practice based in London, where she has been instrumental in setting up the BPTW Architectural Technologist graduate and placement programme, as well as actively mentoring others in her profession. Her talent, coupled with her dedication and boundless support for her fellow Architectural Technologists, saw her win Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year 2020 (awarded by CIAT – the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists).

"I am passionate about learning and knowledge sharing and feel it's important to promote Architectural Technology as a career path; as professionals we have a diverse set of skills that allow us to contribute on many levels and I want to see architectural technologists continue to be a vital part of the industry. Our work is at the forefront of emerging technologies, providing a vital conduit in the crossover of design and technical expertise, which ensures better buildings are conceived and constructed.

"I've had to push quite hard and be highly motivated to pursue a career I really wanted, while not quite knowing how I would get there! It was fantastic to be acknowledged as 'an excellent role model for anyone aspiring to enter the profession' when I won AT of the Year and being accepted as a Fellow Member of CIAT was very significant. Receiving recognition from the University with the Alumni Award was also a real honour. Now I'm able to look back and see how far I have come, which just increases my determination to achieve more.

"I want to share what I've learnt and help others to thrive and succeed. Contributing to someone's growth and boosting their confidence, in whatever they do, is both rewarding and fulfilling. Now as a Partner at BPTW, I will be involved in overseeing one of BPTW's operational design groups, leading two design teams working on pre-and post-planning stages of projects across the private and public sectors. I hope the role will mean I can do even more to support and nurture young graduates and those around me, enabling them to reach their goals and realise their aspirations."



Cyber Smart

Pioneering cybersecurity education and innovation

Every day, across the world, society is creating and sharing data at an astounding rate. With the exponential growth of devices, every email, text, tweet, tap and stream, provides more data for companies to harvest and for cyber criminals to potentially exploit. As more and more of our daily lives move online and threats to our internet-connected devices grow, it is cybersecurity that preserves the availability, confidentiality and integrity of the information passing through our vastly interconnected world.

Edinburgh Napier is at the forefront of cybersecurity education and innovation – stimulating enterprising spin-outs, pioneering ground-breaking research and developing the next generation of talent. Professor Bill Buchanan OBE explains more:

"I think what has underpinned our success is a clear, ambitious vision. We've been determined to deliver a world-class teaching and learning infrastructure that could support the industry and develop the next generation of security experts.

"When three academic schools merged to form the School of Computing, it brought together all the University's expertise across software, networks and systems, creating a rich environment for teaching and innovation. As early investigators of cybersecurity, we saw a clear need for skilled graduates and our first MSc in the subject won approval from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ. We've since developed a suite of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees that attract high quality students from around the globe and our world-class academics are ten times winners at the Scottish Cyber Awards. As a result, we are among the pioneering institutions that have been recognised by NCSC for both our postgraduate and undergraduate provision. Gaining recognition is only part of the story; the sustained work of Rich Macfarlane and Robert Ludwiniak (programme leaders for postgraduate and undergraduate programmes respectively) has kept us at the forefront of cybersecurity education.

"Bringing together students, graduates and industry experts to build the skills we need to stay ahead of the game has driven our approach. Our Cyber Academy, led by Basil Manoussos, works with government agencies, industry and law enforcement (amongst others) on cutting-edge cybersecurity issues, integrating teaching,

research and professional practice to create new training methods and techniques for the benefit of the industry, and ultimately, society as a whole. Within the Cyber Academy is SOCLAB, a dedicated, state-of-the-art Security Operations Centre, which allows us to immerse students and practitioners in real-life scenarios by 'virtualising' sophisticated cyber attacks. Created in collaboration with Satisnet – a renowned leader in the security services industry – SOCLAB demonstrates our commitment to using the most advanced systems and tools possible for teaching and learning.

"Our contribution to the cybersecurity spin-out ecosystem is also significant. ZoneFox (2010), Symphonic Software (2013), Cyan Forensics (2017) and most recently MemCrypt (2020) have all been spun out from PhD research. The multi-award winning ZoneFox grew from Jamie Graves digital forensics research, focused on providing security systems to tackle the growing issue of insider threats. It has since been acquired by US giant Fortinet. Jamie is currently 'Entrepreneur in Residence' in the School of Computing, working with our Centre of Cybersecurity and Cryptography to help further commercialisation success. Cyan Forensics, which allows police to find evidence of child abuse or terrorist activity on suspects' computers, is looking like it could become the next tech unicorn! Symphonic, an industry leader in dynamic and intelligent authorisation software, was acquired by Ping Identity Holding Corporation in a \$31m deal last year. MemCrypt – winner of the Scottish Cyber Awards 2021 Leading Light Innovation prize – looks to be our next game-changer. At its heart is Dr Peter McLaren's PhD work dedicated to combatting ransomware attacks. The talent of our researchers and academics is the best I have seen in my whole career, with another new spin-out happening through the PhD work of Pavlos Papadopoulos.

"In our changing world, cryptography is now being used to fix many of the problems we have created on the internet. Building trusted digital systems that are citizen-focused is a key driver for us, and it is this goal that motivates virtually all the work within our Blockpass Identity Lab (the world's first dedicated blockchain laboratory created in partnership with Hong Kong-based Blockpass). Whether it is health and wellbeing, or the changing of our public services, it is likely to be blockchain methods that will provide the foundation for a new trusted digital world where the rights to



privacy, consent and ownership are preserved. For example, we are currently collaborating with a range of partners and nearly 500,000 European citizens, through the EU-funded GLASS project, to create new models for digital governance that put citizens at the centre of ownership and control of their data, while streamlining access to public services.

"As the world of cybercrime evolves, so do we. We continually push forward and think about what's coming next, driving research that addresses fundamental problems and developing suitable pathways into education and future careers in the industry. Ultimately, what motivates us is a desire to protect societies around the world."

Bill Buchanan OBE

Professor of Cryptography and lead for the Centre for Cybersecurity and Cryptography and the Blockpass ID Lab.

In 2017, Bill was the first person to receive an OBE related to cyber security. For five consecutive years he has been named as one of the Top 100 people for Technology in Scotland and one of the 'Top 50 Scottish Tech People Who Are Changing The World' by FutureScot.



DIFFERENCE MAKER:

／ Zakia
Moulaoui
Guery



Zakia Moulaoui Guery is an inspirational young woman who has developed a successful social enterprise training people affected by homelessness to become tour guides of their cities. Red Triangle went to find out more about what's driven Zakia to make a difference.

"I think community is about finding a sense of belonging, a place of acceptance and a place where you can be empowered and empower others. Through 'Invisible Cities' I want to break down misconceptions surrounding homelessness and demonstrate that everyone has potential," says Zakia.

Her project started with 'Invisible Edinburgh' and has grown to operate in Glasgow, Manchester and York and is about to launch in Cardiff. Its core aim is to develop self-confidence and help homeless guides become financially more resilient. It pushes the boundaries of what people think they can achieve and is changing lives.





The Edinburgh Napier
graduate who wants
to change the stigma
surrounding
homelessness.



Poet and actor, Danny, was Invisible Manchester's very first tour guide; he also acts as a mentor for guides-in-training.

Zakia herself, is an inspiring example of someone who has pushed her own expectations of what's possible. Despite a diagnosis of bowel cancer when she was just 27, and the unexpected death of her mother to whom she was very close, Zakia has overcome personal challenges to develop an award-winning social enterprise.

"A good quote that a friend once told me is: 'There's no easy path to anything that's really worth it'. But it certainly can be hard! I'd find myself saying 'if I can just make it to Christmas, or Easter' or some other date a few months on as I worked towards making the idea a reality. What's challenging for people like me, without financial resources and no partner to provide support, is that you have to find ways to finance your idea and to pay your bills. It's an issue that has implications for diversity and inclusiveness in enterprise, and one I have discussed with Dr Wendy Wu at Edinburgh Napier around her work with the Impact Investment Symposium.

"While there is lots of support out there for business development, and I'm extremely grateful for the grants and financial assistance I've received, sometimes the biggest barrier to getting your idea off the ground is the simple need to cover your living expenses while you develop a fledgling enterprise.

"After graduating, I worked for local and international charities, including the Homeless World Cup Foundation, a global network of street soccer projects. The idea of Invisible Cities formed in 2015, while I was volunteering for a refugee camp in Greece and I came across a similar scheme. On returning to Edinburgh I joined Social Bite, the café and social enterprise that employs and supports homeless people, and then I transferred to Edinburgh's Social Enterprise Academy, and all along I was developing Invisible Edinburgh while working these full time roles. I reached a point where this became unsustainable and I knew I had to make a leap. And it's that leap which is so crucial and so challenging."

Zakia's determination and passion to change lives pushed her through that leap. Now she has a team of six and has grown Invisible Cities to operate across the UK. "Our approach is based on collaboration; it's a social franchise model where we work with a trusted partner organisation in each city where we operate. We focus on developing transferable skills such as public speaking, customer service, managing groups and first aid so our guides can deliver walking tours across their cities, but we have to be part of an ecosystem of support for people experiencing homelessness in order for our model to work.



Zakia and members of the Invisible Edinburgh team



Transgender woman, Laura, focuses her tours on inspirational Mancunian women and showcases the city's female culture and history.

"It's fantastic that since launching, we have trained more than 70 people and welcomed around 10,000 customers on the tours. Some of our guides have progressed on to other careers and opportunities and many remain actively working with us. We know this is a model that works: the stability and networking experience it delivers can be life-changing for those involved.

"Now I'm working to consolidate what we've achieved and build Invisible Cities' sustainability and resilience. I think it's so important that Edinburgh Napier is looking at how best to support the scaling of social enterprises. We need the right kind of support to help us create change and ensure we can do more for those we serve."

Find out more: www.invisible-cities.org

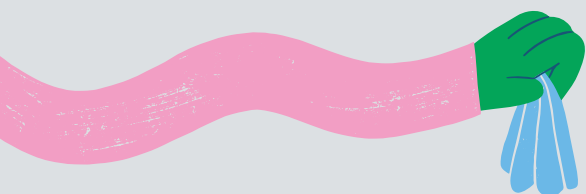
Contributing to a better, brighter and more equitable world

Impact investment is about linking measurable social outcomes and financial returns. By harnessing entrepreneurship and innovation, it can support the growth of social enterprises to tackle society's toughest challenges more effectively and at scale. Edinburgh Napier is keen to play a role in propelling the impact investment movement forward and in spring 2020 the Business School founded the Impact Investment Symposium.

Chaired by Bob Keiller (former Chairman of Scottish Enterprise) the Symposium brings together leading philanthropists, investors, social entrepreneurs, academics and other change-makers to consider how to break down barriers to success for social enterprises. Early discussions identified a clear need for better connection, understanding and trust between entrepreneurs, investors and support agencies, and five working groups were spun out of the Symposium to address specific aspects of these relationships when scaling a social enterprise. For example, the financing group – whose members include leaders of Women's Enterprise Scotland, Social Investment Scotland, Cazenove Capital, Par Equity, FirstPort and Interface – is looking at how to improve the funding ecosystem and make it easier for social entrepreneurs to gain access to the support they need at the right time.

Impact investment is more important than ever in our disrupted world and the Symposium's passionate members are playing a key role in responding to some of the critical challenges faced by those who want to make a difference. What they are finding is that solutions are sometimes not so far from reach when people come together to listen, learn and collaborate.

www.napier.ac.uk/impact-investment

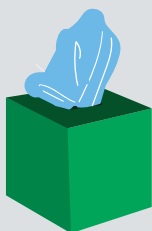


Through expertise at Edinburgh Napier, a breakthrough for the world's most widespread infectious disease might finally be in sight.

Pioneering a new approach to tackling the **COMMON COLD**

The common cold is the world's most widespread infectious disease and one of the hardest to pin down. A cold is actually a catch-all term for a variety of viral infections that cause sore throats, headaches, coughs and sneezes. In reality, more than 200 different viruses provoke cold-like illnesses and each virus has its own particular strategies to evade the body's defences.

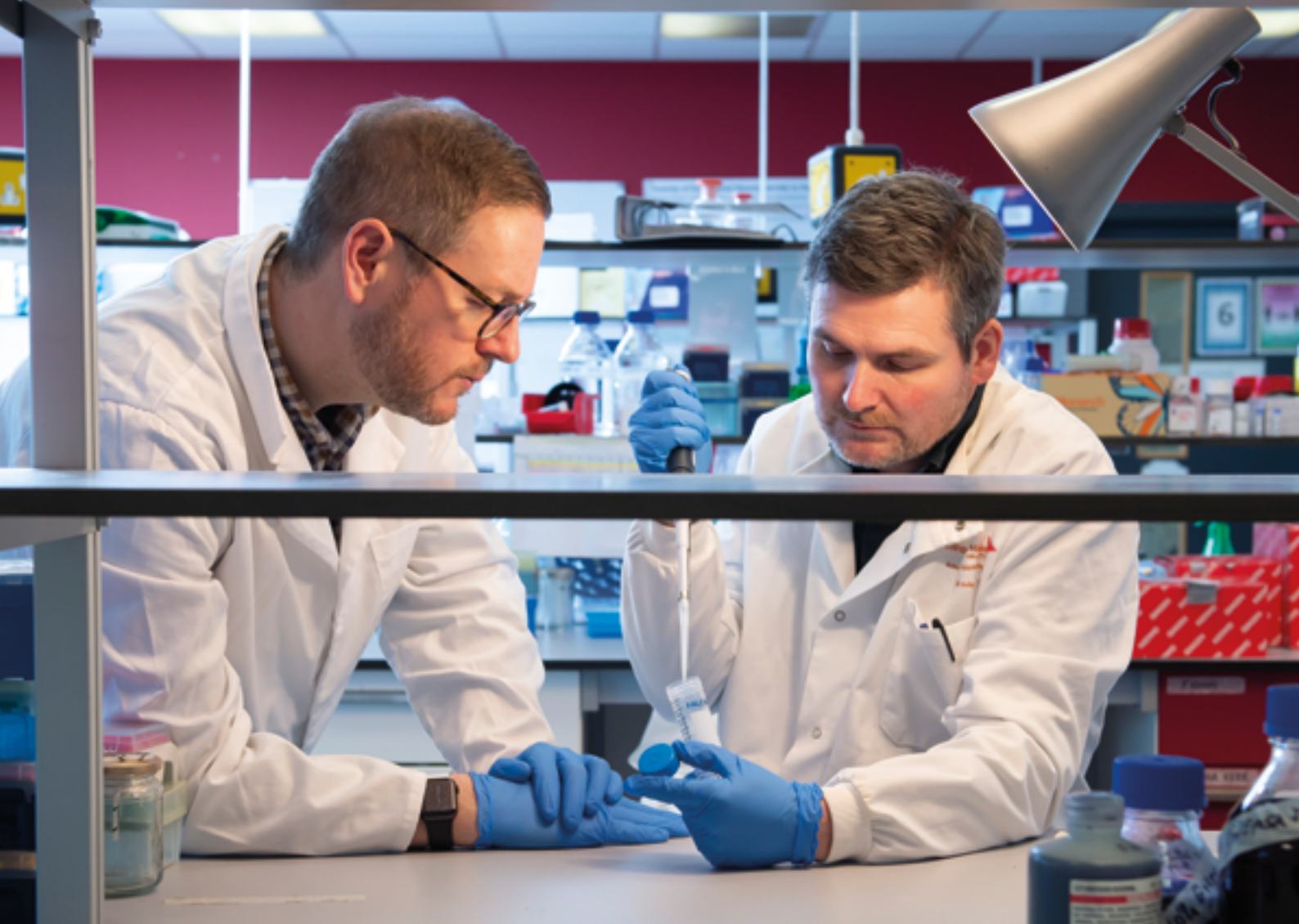
Rhinovirus is by far the most prevalent pathogen, causing up to three-quarters of all colds in adults. It has around 160 different strains – and it is this multiplicity that makes it exceptionally challenging to create a vaccine or drug that can target it effectively.



Researchers at Edinburgh Napier are pioneering a new approach to the challenge. Professor Peter Barlow, Chair of Immunology and Infection in the School of Applied Sciences, explains more:

"I have been working in the area of immunology my whole career – in my PhD at Edinburgh Napier (graduating back in 2004), through various research positions in leading institutions in the UK and US, and now here within the School of Applied Sciences. A particular focus has been on investigating a family of molecules known as 'host defence peptides', which are a key part of people's frontline immune response against viruses. While working at the Influenza Division of the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, we made a key discovery that one of these peptides, known as cathelicidin, was incredibly effective at damaging influenza virus.

"In 2011, I returned to Edinburgh Napier to take up the post of Lecturer and Principal Investigator in Immunotoxicology, and that's when I met Dr Craig Stevens, Associate Professor in Biomedical Sciences. Working with Craig has been pivotal. Together, we further investigated the potential of cathelicidin, discovering that it could also



Professor Peter Barlow (left) and Dr Craig Stevens (right) working within a laboratory in the School of Applied Sciences

inhibit rhinovirus – a hugely important finding – that led us to pose a critical question: can we enhance the human body's natural immune response to rhinovirus? And in the laboratory we found that we could: by stimulating cathelicidin release in immune cells, we caused around 90% of rhinovirus to disappear from our cell cultures.

"Jumping forward, that discovery has brought us to the concept of PlusPep – a formulation that can enhance the body's natural immune response to rhinovirus. We're on the edge of delivering a novel peptide-based therapeutic for the effective treatment of colds, although there's a bit of a way to go yet. Working with Robert Goodfellow – Edinburgh Napier's Entrepreneur-in-Residence, sponsored through the Royal Society's scheme, and our commercial champion – we're progressing towards spinning-out a company to develop PlusPep. With a 'Proof of concept' patent now in place, the next stage is testing PlusPep in human trials.

"This is a really exciting milestone. Human trials can be a long process – various trial phases are required and funding needs to be in place – but validating the effectiveness of the PlusPep formulation in humans will

bring us closer to delivering a therapeutic treatment. And achieving that could be very significant. Millions of working days are lost every year to sickness from colds, while for people who are immune-suppressed, rhinovirus infection can be a very serious disease and even lead to death.

"It would be fantastic to change the course of a disease that has affected humans for millennia. And in our current times, where pandemic-related restrictions may result in many people having weaker immune defences against seasonal colds, there's an increased possibility that more people will fall ill with viruses that normally they could have fended off with ease. In this context, finding an effective treatment for rhinovirus is more important than ever."

Spotlight on...

Robyn Love

Former ENU Alumnus
of the Year and GB
Paralympic wheelchair
basketball superstar

Robyn's journey into basketball began at Edinburgh Napier when she first discovered the sport through her involvement with the Students' Association. Since then she has enjoyed a remarkable journey of success, becoming a Paralympian, world silver medallist and three-time European medallist. Her sporting career continues to go from strength to strength.

"Para-sports opened an incredible door for me and I'm passionate about raising awareness of it. Through it I've gained opportunities I couldn't have imagined, but I didn't even know about para sports until I was 22! I know there are lots of disabled kids who aren't included in PE at school and we need to turn around traditional thinking. I want to open minds and champion para-sports to be part of the curriculum. I feel strongly that greater awareness needs to be raised that para-sports provide great opportunities, whether you have a disability or not, and that able-bodied kids can play them too, so it can be genuinely inclusive. Wheelchair basketball in particular, is one of the most inclusive sports in the world where both disabled and able-bodied people play together."

Robyn wasn't aware she was eligible to play wheelchair basketball. Born with arthrogryposis, a rare condition which affects the body's joints and muscles, her right leg is shorter than her left and she is missing muscles in both. Growing up, despite her disability, she played sports because she loved them and it was only when watching wheelchair sports in the London 2012 Paralympic Games that she began to wonder if she could get involved.





Robyn Love, Paralympics Wheelchair Basketball team, Tokyo August 2021

"Discovering wheelchair basketball was revelatory; I'd thought it was only for those who use a chair permanently but it's not. For me it meant I could utilise my hand-eye co-ordination skills but without the obstacle of running. I got really excited by this great thing I could participate in and how I could be on a level playing field with my teammates.

"Back in school, my plan had been to become a PE teacher but I was wrongly told by one of my doctors that wouldn't be possible because of my lower limb disability. So, I changed tack and studied Biomedical Science at Edinburgh Napier, and that was a great decision. At the Freshers Fair I signed up for the women's basketball team and being part of that club transformed my university experience." Just before Robyn finished up as Vice-President Sports and Societies for Napier's Students' Association, she decided to move down to Worcester where the wheelchair basketball programme was based.

"I had a lot of support from Scottish Disability Sport, the University and Basketball Scotland, and that set me on a route to success. I debuted for the GB Women's team at the 2015 European Championships, where we won bronze and secured a qualification place for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. We achieved an historic fourth place finish in those Games. I was also a top player of the GB squad at the 2018 World Championships, where we won silver for the first time. Then in 2021, I participated in my second Paralympic Games in Tokyo."

In 2020, Robyn announced her engagement to fellow teammate Laurie Williams, and the couple have since married.

"There are female athletes in relationships on football teams, on opposite teams in different sports, but there aren't many queer disabled athletes who are out and proud. For me and Laurie, it's great to be ourselves and be accepted by our community." Robyn is aware that she is seen as a role model and is keen to encourage as many girls as possible to follow her lead and get involved in the sport. "Having positive role models is really important. So, if I can be one for others, then I'm delighted to be so. I want girls to see what's possible and have confidence in their ability – often they can achieve so much more than they realise."

Most recently Robyn has joined Loughborough Lightning for the inaugural Women's Premier League of British Wheelchair Basketball. "This is so exciting. It will be the first of its kind for women's wheelchair basketball and the very first professional para-sport league in the UK. I never thought this would be possible but we are leading the way! I'm so grateful to be part of it and proud to have joined Lightning which is trailblazing in its support of world-class female sports across a variety of disciplines."



Rebuilding tourism *for the future*



Victoria Street, Edinburgh.

PROFESSOR ANNA LEASK

The impact of the pandemic and how Edinburgh Napier is contributing to the recovery of the tourism sector

"Tourism is hugely important to the Scottish economy and recovery of the sector will be a long haul. Initial hopes for a staycation boom in 2021 did not transpire, with many businesses still fighting to survive. In the visitor attraction sector – one of the key motivators for visitors to Scotland – less than half managed to reopen fully in 2021 and over one third are operating below an economically sustainable level.

The pressing challenge: staff recruitment and retention

Brexit-related uncertainties, and a decreasing labour pool further exacerbated by the impact of Covid, are leading to an unprecedented brain drain of talent. Recent UK Data for hospitality alone identified 134,000 unfilled posts, with 40% of UK hospitality employers reporting staff shortages of chefs and front-of-house staff. Many skills that form the basis of the Scottish tourism experience may well have been lost; for example, experienced tour guides and attraction interpreters who have moved on, away or developed new careers.

A recent study by Edinburgh Napier University, on behalf of the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions, found the majority of attraction employees are very loyal and committed to their jobs. However, there is a pressing need for increased investment in the recruitment and retention of employees across the hospitality and tourism sector. The pandemic has caused a supervisory 'gap' due to individuals at this level being lost, which in turn is impacting on the retention of new employees, who, if not supported effectively in the current challenging circumstances, simply leave.

Upskilling and reskilling the professionals the sector needs

Education and training will be key to recovery. While Edinburgh Napier has one of the most respected tourism courses in Scotland, our role goes beyond the provision of degree education to deliver models for industry that supply the kind of training and knowledge sharing needed. Going forward, one of the biggest growth areas is likely to be applied learning in the form of short courses to upskill and reskill professionals already working in the sector.

Our Destination Leaders Programme (DLP) is a good example of this. Developed and delivered on behalf of Scottish Enterprise, it now forms a significant part of the Scottish Government funded leadership programme to help the industry rebound. Targeted at people in the tourism sector who have already demonstrated leadership potential, it's a model that we have developed further to deliver formats for specific industry sectors.

Edinburgh Napier's reputation in tourism, hospitality, festivals and events led to us being invited to participate in the Scottish Tourism Recovery Task Force, plus we represent the Higher Education sector on the Skills Development Scotland Tourism Skills Group. The Scottish Government allocated £25m for a programme of action, including an initial £2.5m for skills training via the Tourism and Hospitality Talent Development Programme (THTDP) and delivery of leadership initiatives. Through our applied expertise, such as the DLP, we are well positioned to make a significant contribution to recovery and the supply of the next generation of talent for the industry.

Supporting sustainability: Our new Tourism Research Centre

The 14,000 tourism businesses in Scotland are all facing extraordinarily difficult challenges. Many are now contemplating a future without lucrative international visitors, relying instead on those closer to home, and there is a real threat of significant business closures and mass redundancy. There are also new market shifts, such as the pull away from cities – potentially bringing the over-tourism, experienced by leading cities for many years, to new locations less well-equipped to cope with its demands – as well as shifts in transport preferences, needs and expectations of visitors.

Our new Tourism Research Centre will contribute insight to these developments, sharing expertise and actively participating in programmes that can help build a more agile sector capable of adapting to a sustainable future. We must support innovation, fostering new ideas and technologies, and the development of authentic, quality experiences which will be key to recovery. I believe we are in a position to do that, and with the right support in place the sector could return more strongly than before."



*Anna Leask,
Professor of Tourism
Management and
Director of Tourism
Research Centre*

Rebuilding tourism *for the future*

JULIE GRIEVE

Driving tech solutions in hospitality

Julie Grieve is the Founder and CEO of Criton, an award-winning guest engagement and integrations technology provider that enables hotels to create a fully contactless guest journey. She talks about how tech solutions will help to drive the recovery of the hospitality sector.

"The hospitality sector has been devastated by Covid-19 and the extended lockdowns, which have also had a significant impact on supply chain businesses, such as ourselves. I don't believe we can all just bounce back to how things were pre-pandemic, but the hospitality industry can play a huge part in re-booting the economy if it is allowed to and is appropriately supported to do so. Technology will undoubtedly support its recovery, and I am optimistic about the part Criton has to play in enabling the industry to embrace tech solutions.

"I founded Criton in 2016 to solve the problems hotels face offering their guests a fully digital guest experience, given the fragmented nature of the technology landscape across hospitality. Criton integrates booking, check-in, mobile access and mobile ordering, providing a branded guest app that allows hotels, resorts, serviced apartments and groups to offer a contactless guest journey using their current technology stack.

"2020 was the busiest year of the business to date. Technology has an enormous role to play within our industry, but as yet, it remains mostly an untapped resource; the hotel sector has been poorly served by technology vendors for many years and has struggled to keep up with the constant cycles of change in tech. Prior to the pandemic, Criton was regarded as 'nice to have' tech, and our reach was mainly early adopters, but that has changed. We have become a 'must have' because guests expect to be able to use their phone to engage and they want to have access to the same technology that they have at home. Those expectations require the sector to significantly invest in tech solutions, and while hotels want to do that, they are stymied by their current technology stack, a lack of staff with tech expertise, and the need for investment at a time when they have been brought to their knees by the impact of the pandemic and Brexit.



Criton Boringdon Hall app

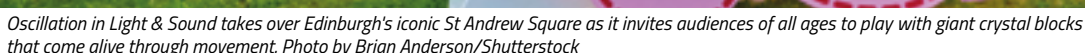
"Harnessing digital transformation for improving the experience of hospitality will define the future, but the real challenge is how we move the industry forward. If you look at retail, for example, and how it profiles and targets its customers, hospitality must move towards that model. The fragmented technology stack that characterises hospitality makes it hard to capture data, and while there is slow change to open APIs, the plethora of tech vendors means there is a great deal of integration required, which is a real challenge.

"From my point of view, that challenge is exciting. Digital transformation brings incredible opportunities for different types of careers in hospitality, including data-orientated roles that will demand higher rates of pay, and universities that provide hospitality courses have an important part to play in developing the type of graduates the industry will require.

"I am delighted to announce that Criton has now been acquired by Nonius, a global player in the hospitality technology sector, and will be merged with GuestU, Nonius's mobile solution to offer a more complete Smart Hotel App product. I firmly believe this will create a world-leading mobile service allowing hoteliers to embrace the digital service their guests are demanding."



Julie studied at Edinburgh Napier 1993-96 BA (Hons) Business Studies, and the Destination Leaders Programme: Tourism and Leadership, 2014-15.



Re-imagining festivals in a disrupted world

"The crisis has forced festivals to reshape how they stage events, adapting and adjusting to find ways to deliver quality content despite the challenges. In many ways, it has provided an opportunity to re-evaluate the scale and type of events

"Every year I return to Edinburgh Napier to speak with students and share my industry insights. For me, speakers from industry was one of the most inspiring parts of my degree course. In the light of how we are having to adapt, evolve and re-imagine what we do, it feels even more important to connect with the next generation of talent and inspire them to be the problem-solvers the industry will require. The practical challenges of the pandemic are not over yet but I believe the future is bright for science festivals and that across the sector we will find ways to recover and continue to be a vital part of cultural life."





PARTNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY: GROWING OUR INFLUENCE

In November 2021, the global Conference of the Parties (COP26) provided a critical focus for nations to explore how they could work better together to mitigate climate change and build a more sustainable world. At Edinburgh Napier, the magnitude of this challenge is keenly felt. Barbara Kidd, Head of Development, explains more about how the University is growing partnership and sustainability through staff and student engagement with organisations large and small across the UK and beyond.

"COP26 provided a huge opportunity to develop policy and practical actions, and whilst there is some debate as to whether the outcome agreements went far enough, at Edinburgh Napier we were inspired and encouraged by the commitment and perseverance of industry leaders working with us, and each other, to determine and progress the solutions needed.

"In partnership with Anderson Strathern (a leading Scottish legal firm) and WSP (one of the world's leading engineering professional services firms), we hosted Beyond COP26, a virtual summit focused on helping businesses to identify practical steps to help them achieve Net Zero. An exceptional line-up of recognised and respected senior leaders from across industry took part, including Institute of Directors CEO Louise MacDonald (a Napier alumnus); Dr Sam Gardner, Head of Climate Change & Sustainability at ScottishPower and Chair of Edinburgh Climate Commission; Ian Marchant, Chair of Logan Energy and of Thames Water; WSP UK's Director of Sustainability, David Symons; Amanda Bryan, Director of the Scottish Forestry Trust and Chair of the

Crown Estate; and Ann Allen, Chair of Architecture and Design Scotland and CEO of the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors.

"300 participants joined Beyond COP26 online, which also showcased aspects of Edinburgh Napier's applied sustainability research in partnership with business – from construction to natural capital, smart cities to environmental social governance – facilitating discussions to foster cross-sector innovation. Its legacy is a clear commitment to further collaborate and build industry research partnerships, as well as fund student scholarships and deliver the Edinburgh Napier Gold Standard Curriculum to ensure a work-ready graduate pipeline with sustainability at their core.

"Edinburgh Napier was a key player in the multi-partner collaboration to create a platform for young people's voices on sustainability at COP26. Working with leading organisations including LEGO Group, PechaKucha, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Daydream Believers, After The Pandemic and Whitespace, the University helped to devise a dynamic programme of events delivered at a special Youth Hub. Over 1000 children and young people attended the Hub, participating in talks, presentations and workshops, showcasing their ideas to politicians, negotiators and decision makers attending COP26. Children as young as five presented their solutions to the climate crisis and Barack Obama dropped by to talk with young activists. It was a terrific partnership project that encouraged young people to engage in challenge-based learning using creativity to tackle the climate crisis.



"Another great example is our partnership with Scottish Gas Network (SGN) that has seen Edinburgh Napier students create proposals for improvements to decommissioned fossil fuel SGN sites. Ruth Cochrane, Enterprise Lead within the School of Arts and Creative Industries at the University, commented: 'We set out to have students from different disciplines working together on climate change adaption and community needs, creating a transformational learning experience – and we certainly achieved that. What I didn't anticipate was finding a new way for academics from across Edinburgh Napier to collaborate with professional services colleagues and a leading external partner so effectively. This project has created strong networks that didn't previously exist and we now know that we can build more amazing projects as a result.'

"In December 2021 the People & Planet's University League was published, naming Edinburgh Napier University as top in Scotland with regard to environmental sustainability and ethics. This reflects our commitment to achieving net zero goals through activity such as signing the Edinburgh Climate Compact and our development of a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). Principal Andrea Nolan commented: 'To deliver these challenging goals we must further develop collaborative and action-driven working relationships. Signing the Compact confirms our intention to continue our work with a wide range of partners within Edinburgh to lead and support reduction in place-based emissions and impact throughout the city'. The University has now removed all direct investments from fossil fuel companies and alongside the ESS has launched www.napier.ac.uk/environment-sustainability where we will publicly share all progress towards the goals we have set.

"The examples given here are just a snapshot of partnership and sustainability activity driven by Edinburgh Napier. They demonstrate our growing influence and how our ethos to be the home of difference makers is gaining recognition. In many instances we've seen industry sectors and organisations collaborate together for the first time and we will continue to build on this commitment to working together.

So, whether you are a public sector organisation, start-up, SME or a multinational, we invite you to engage with us and learn more about how we can work in partnership to build sustainability and help your organisation to succeed."

Edinburgh Napier University is top in Scotland with regard to environmental sustainability and ethics

People & Planet's University League

ENGAGE WITH US



We provide advice, knowledge and expertise to industry, the public and third sectors building strong partnerships with and between organisations in Scotland, the UK and beyond.

www.napier.ac.uk/partnership

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ENCourage21



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Invest in future success

Could you help to make a difference? Find out more about creating opportunity by supporting the ENU Scholarship fund.

www.napier.ac.uk/scholarships



How your support is enabling the next generation of talent

The generosity of over 170 donors has enabled 21 deserving students to access university education and achieve their aspirations. The 2021/22 ENCourage Scholarships support individuals who would have been unable to undertake their degree due to the financial impact of the pandemic.

Three recipients explain the difference the ENCourage Scholarship will make to them.



"Thank you so much for the generosity that has allowed me to be awarded an ENCourage Scholarship. This will make such a difference to my studies, taking the financial pressure off of me and my family after an extremely hard year due to the pandemic."

Jessica Thow, BA (Hons)
Business Management with Marketing



"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this support. It means I can continue my education at Napier. It will allow me to progress through this academic year and volunteer during my studies to gain useful experience for the future. I am delighted to have the opportunity to explore the world of sports that is evolving today."

Hubert Kaczmarek, BSc (Hons)
Physical Activity & Health



"I am so grateful for this scholarship. It will greatly benefit me and ease a lot of my stress. I have been struggling with chronic pain and haven't been able to work as much as I would like, so this scholarship will allow me to focus on my studies without worrying about putting in more hours at work when I am not currently able to but needed to financially."

Niamh Kelly, BA (Hons) Accounting



High Tide

Small business, big heart

Creating opportunities for others to succeed – the Edinburgh Napier graduates behind High Tide

High Tide is an award-winning creative company, founded by Alex Porter-Smith and Eathan Currie who set up the business while studying at Edinburgh Napier. Their clients include leading businesses and organisations, such as Glenmorangie, Boë Vodka, Ardbeg, Contagious, Tayburn, JustEat Cycles, Stena Line, Tesco Bank, Crabbie's Ginger Beer and Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Alex explains how she and Eathan have shaped High Tide into a values-driven business that looks to support others while growing its impact.

"We are both deeply aware of the creative industries being notoriously hard to break into with a culture of low or unpaid entry positions. We know how challenging it can be starting out as a freelancer, and how vulnerable you can be to mistreatment with regard to contracts and payment in the early days. So we are very proactive in ensuring we are fair, honest and considerate in our employment of young freelancers, many of whom are graduates from Edinburgh Napier.

"The support Eathan and I received as we developed the business was important, so we want to 'give back' in a way that helps others to get a foot in the door of this industry. Early on we hosted an Edinburgh Napier student placement and the success of that experience has led us to include student opportunities in our client projects whenever we can.

"We both know the difference mentors and responsive support can make. Before studying at Edinburgh Napier, we undertook a modern apprenticeship at Creative Scotland: there was actually only one apprenticeship available but our mentor there found funding to allow us both to attend, which was so incredibly helpful. Equally, the enthusiasm of Bright Red Triangle staff at the University, particularly Pete McLean, helped us to shape the business and build our confidence. It made a huge difference to be supported by people who really cared about our success.

"Confidence paired with ambition is a powerful tool. We felt really empowered to take High Tide forward through the support we've received, so we want to enable that for others where we can. I'm also a Board Trustee of Creative & Cultural Skills, the national charity that supports young people in the creative industries, and through it I advocate for fair and



High Tide founders Alex Porter-Smith and Eathan Currie

inclusive opportunities. (It was Edinburgh Napier's Get on Board programme that helped me to pursue this position!)

"I think even as a relatively young, small company you can find ways to create opportunities for others. Obviously, Eathan and I care deeply about the success of High Tide but that doesn't preclude us from caring deeply about supporting others to be successful too."

Edinburgh Napier Placements Team



Could your organisation host a student placement? It can be a great way to benefit from a student's fresh, enthusiastic perspective while allowing them to gain a work-based learning experience. To find out more, please get in touch with our Placements Team.

www.napier.ac.uk/placements



Five minutes with...

Dr Kirsten MacLeod, Associate Professor



Dr Kirsten MacLeod, Associate Professor, is a lecturer in Television and Film at Edinburgh Napier. She has worked as a filmmaker and media practitioner for over 20 years in broadcast and community based media. Her research and practice interests are in documentary production, community and alternative media, islands, networks and knowledge.

When did you join ENU and what were your aspirations?

I joined in November 2012. I looked forward to being part of the teaching team on BA Television and developing my research and practice.

What's the best part of your job?

All the projects and productions I get to be involved with – from student productions to research and collaborations like *Bleeding Free* and *Bleedin Saor*. Supporting students to learn, grow and produce work they are proud of while they are studying with us is very rewarding.

Can you explain what a practice-led researcher in community based and participatory media investigates?

Good question! The research I do is often led by doing, and by reflecting on and critiquing what goes on during the processes of practice or production, and in my case especially in relation to media production that is made collaboratively with communities or individuals.

Tell us about 'Bleeding Free'

Bleeding Free is a documentary that captures the *Bleedin Saor* campaign developed by students and staff to raise awareness of period poverty and challenge the stigma around menstruation and lack of access to period products, at home and abroad. Film and TV students filmed it in Scotland and Uganda. Edinburgh Napier recently won the Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for the *Bleedin Saor* project.

Is there a documentary you would advise all of us to watch?

Anything and everything by Kim Longinotto – she is a fantastic documentary maker, who makes wonderfully observed films about women's lives, such as *Divorce Iranian style* (1998) and *Sisters in law* (2005). I'd also recommend *Touching the Void* directed by Kevin Macdonald.

What are you watching?

Schitt's Creek.

What are you listening to?

I'm a big *Woman's Hour* fan, Emma Barnett the new presenter is fantastic. Also, *The Tough Girl* podcast.

What would you like to learn?

I'd like to learn to sail. I love the sea and dream of going on a big voyage. Plumbing and car maintenance would be handy too!

What do you wish you were better at?

Getting tradespeople in to do the jobs that need doing in my house!

If you could be anywhere, where would you like to be?

Mallorca, the north end, swimming in the sea and walking in the hills.

Tell us a surprising fact about yourself

While filming a pilot for a TV series (many years ago) I ended up drinking pint glasses of champagne and dancing with Prince Albert of Monaco and designer John Galiano!

Find out more about Bleeding Free:
<https://bleedingfree.wordpress.com>

Connect, Engage & Collaborate

Edinburgh Napier
is here for you.



Stay in touch, share your news, grow your network, continue your learning

✓ Keep in touch

We want to make sure you have access to all the benefits of being a member of the Edinburgh Napier alumni community! Staying connected means we can continue to share news, updates and opportunities, including our events and ways you could get involved with Edinburgh Napier. So, please let us know if your contact details have changed.

✓ Connect online

Follow us on our social media channels. You can find us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Our channels are also a good way to connect with classmates and network with fellow alumni.



✓ Share your story

Now that you are out in the world making a difference, we want to hear about it! Please think about sharing your story with us – whatever stage of career you may be at, your advice, experience and wisdom can be very helpful and inspirational to others. We can present your story in an online profile, through a video or perhaps you could re-visit us and talk directly to our students.

✓ Access lifelong learning

As an Edinburgh Napier alumnus you are entitled to 20% off tuition fees and can benefit from a fast-tracked application with no references or transcripts necessary. We also offer a variety of short courses to help you develop your personal and professional skills.

✓ Use the Edinburgh Napier Graduate Talent Bank

Our Graduate Talent Bank is a great resource where you can share opportunities with our students and recent graduates, post job ads or look us recruit Edinburgh Napier graduates.

“We have many ways for you to stay in touch and offer a range of benefits for doing so! I’m here to help you with any questions you have or just to hear and share your good news and University memories. You can reach me and the alumni team via alumni@napier.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!”

Miia MacDougall
Senior Alumni
Relations Manager

To find out more visit:
www.napier.ac.uk/red-triangle-2022



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