



Press release: Tuesday 1 July 2014

Scotland's Young Academy welcomes 43 new members

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) is pleased to announce the appointment of 43 new members. These members will make up the third intake and join the existing membership of 113 in realising the central YAS mission of addressing “the most challenging issues facing society in Scotland and beyond.”

Over one hundred high quality applications were received and rigorously reviewed by a combination of Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Fellows and current YAS members. Made up of 20 women and 23 men, with an average age of 37, this new cohort will bring a range of new and diverse skills from across Scotland to the YAS membership.

As well as representing a range of sciences from particle physics to volcanology, this new cohort includes academics from fields as varied as Greek history and global public health. The candidates have also been selected based upon evidence of their interdisciplinary work as well as their commitment to contributing to the public good. Among the new members are:

- Professor Guy Walker, Associate Professor Heriot Watt, who researches human factors of the built environment.
- Dr Matthew Smith, Senior Lecturer, University of Strathclyde, a researcher and teacher of medical history. His public outreach and engagement work has been recognised by being named AHRCⁱ/BBC New Generation Thinker in 2012.
- Dr Louise Harris, University of Glasgow, is an audio-visual composer and lecturer.
- Dr Eileen Wall, SRUCⁱⁱ, is a Reader in Integrative Animal Sciences. Her research into climate change and development of sustainable and environmental breeding goals is also complimented by interdisciplinary work and a mix of academic and practical work.

Unique among the growing number of worldwide young academies, the Young Academy of Scotland also encourages applications for membership outwith academia. This year YAS is particularly excited to welcome some of Scotland's most talented young civil servants, entrepreneurs and social innovators. These include:

- Alison Urie, CEO and founder of Vox Luminis; a charitable business that develops the role of arts practice within criminal justice.
- Mhairi Towler, Director and founder of Vivomotion; an award winning science animation production company that creates high quality 2D and 3D animations to help scientists to explain what they do to other scientists, students, the public and investors.

Neil McLennan, YAS co-chair, commented, “What stood out most within the applications was the drive and enthusiasm for contributing to the public good. The applicants have clearly recognised the opportunities that come with YAS membership, not least for being part of an organisation looking to benefit society. I am hugely excited to welcome new members from such diverse and varied backgrounds that will bring their knowledge and expertise to assist in widening YAS's impact.”

Professor Alan Alexander, General Secretary of the RSE, added, “The YAS brings together the finest young minds and talents in Scotland and the hardest thing about the selection process is having fewer places than the competition merits. The range of interests is extraordinary, as is the

commitment of YAS members to the public good of Scotland. On behalf of the RSE, I congratulate the new members on their appointment and I look forward to working with them and to admiring their progress.”

Notes

Established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011, the work of the Young Academy of Scotland is carried out by 10 working groups. The new members will have the opportunity to join one or more of these groups. Guided by primary interest areas of Knowledge, Employment, Young People and Health & Wellbeing, these groups have already made some notable achievements. These include:

- Producing a video resource aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence, highlighting the importance of numeracy in the professional and personal lives of YAS members;
- Organising a series of seminars from senior politicians around the implications of constitutional change in Scotland;
- Developing *Research the Headlines* (www.researchtheheadlines.org), a blog which utilises the interdisciplinary nature of the YAS membership in addressing “the way in which research is discussed and portrayed in the media”.

| NEW COHORT OF YOUNG ACADEMY MEMBERS - JUNE 2014 | | |
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| James Blake | Senior lecturer, School of Arts & Creative Industries | Edinburgh Napier University |
| Mark Boyce | Head of China & Americas Team | Scottish Government |
| Tara Elise Brendle | Senior Lecturer in Mathematics | University of Glasgow |
| Paul Martin Brennan | Clinical Lecturer and Specialist Registrar in Neurosurgery | Western General Hospital |
| Gavin Buckingham | Lecturer in Psychology | Heriot-Watt University |
| Mirko Canevaro | Chancellor's Fellow in Classics | University of Edinburgh |
| Maria Ana Cataluna | Senior Lecturer and RAEng/EPSRC Research Fellow | University of Dundee |
| Kit Yee Chan | Chancellor's Fellow, Centre for Population Health Sciences | University of Edinburgh |
| Stella Chan | Chancellor's Fellow in Clinical Psychology | University of Edinburgh |
| Ashleigh Jane Fletcher | Lecturer in Chemical Engineering | University of Strathclyde |
| Matt Gibson | Head of Geography | Glenalmond College |
| Stuart Robert Gray | Senior Lecturer in Exercise Physiology | University of Aberdeen |
| Louise Harris | Lecturer in Sonic and Audiovisual Practices | University of Glasgow |
| Ik Siong Heng | Reader, School of Physics & Astronomy | University of Glasgow |
| Paul Alan Hoskisson | Senior Lecture in Microbiology | University of Strathclyde |
| Rachael Jack | Lecturer in Psychology | University of Glasgow |
| Christine Anne Knight | Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow. Science, Technology & Innovation Studies | University of Edinburgh |
| Theodore | Lecturer in Economics | University of St Andrews |

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| Koutmeridis | | |
| Graeme Logan | Strategic Director of Education | Education Scotland |
| Victoria Long | Senior Lecturer in Health History | Glasgow Caledonian University |
| Andrew Manches | Chancellor's Fellow, Moray House School of Education | University of Edinburgh |
| Victoria Martin | Reader in Particle Physics | University of Edinburgh |
| Nasar Meer | Reader in Comparative Social Policy and Citizenship | University of Strathclyde |
| Marcus Meissner | Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology | University of Glasgow |
| Harish Nair | Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Population Health Sciences | University of Edinburgh |
| Silvia Paracchini | Royal Society University Research Fellow, School of Medicine | University of St Andrews |
| Daniel Neil William Phillips | Software Team Lead | Toshiba Medical Visualization Systems Europe |
| Nicholas Rawlinson | Chair of Geophysics | University of Aberdeen |
| Stuart Reid | Reader & Royal Society Industry Fellow, Thin Film Centre | University of the West of Scotland |
| Verena Teresa Rieser | Lecturer B in Computer Sciences | Heriot-Watt University |
| Kate Saunders | Lecturer in Volcanology | University of Edinburgh |
| Michael Patrick Shaver | Chancellor's Fellow / Reader, School of Chemistry | University of Edinburgh |
| Daniela Sime | Senior Lecturer, School of Social Work and Social Policy | University of Strathclyde |
| Ian Simpson | Principal Researcher in Statistical Bioinformatics | Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland |
| Matthew Smith | Senior Lecturer, Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare | University of Strathclyde |
| Devi Sridhar | Senior Lecturer in Global Public Health | University of Edinburgh |
| Adam Andrew Stokes | Lecturer, The Scottish Microelectronics Centre | University of Edinburgh |
| Sabina Strachan | Historic Scotland; Senior Consultant, BOP Consulting | BOP Consulting |
| Annie Tindley | Senior Lecturer in History | University of Dundee |
| Mhairi Towler | CEO & Director | Vivomotion |
| Alison Urie | CEO | Vox Liminis |
| Guy Walker | Associate Professor, Institute for Infrastructure and Environment | Heriot-Watt University |
| Eileen Wall | Reader in Integrative Animal Sciences, Animal & Veterinary Sciences Research Group | SRUC, Easter Bush |

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ⁱ AHRC is the Arts and Humanities Research Council

ⁱⁱ SRUC is Scotland's Rural College