

### CENTENARY EVENTS

The Centenary of Geography 2008 - 2009 will be celebrated in several events including:

- » A Centenary Drinks Reception, hosted by the Principal of the University, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, on Friday 19 September 2008, at 6.30p.m. in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College.
- » A Geography Open Day will be held on Saturday 20 September 2008, from 10.00 a.m. (until 4.00 p.m.). Come and see what Geography looks like now. Come and re-acquaint yourself with your Dissertation. Hear lectures on aspects of our research in Geography.
- » Guest lectures, to be given throughout the year, in association with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (Edinburgh Centre) including Michael Palin and Nicholas Crane.
- » An exhibition of photographs, past and present, and of artefacts from the Geography Archive.
- » Publication of a special Edinburgh Centenary issue of the *Scottish Geographical Journal*.
- » A film series in association with Filmhouse Limited

### MARKING THE CENTENARY OF GEOGRAPHY

We are delighted to announce that the Centenary of Geography has been generously supported by:

- » The establishment, from Mr. and Mrs. Derek Moss, of funds towards three PhD studentships.
- » The establishment of The Moss Centenary Research Award to assist early career researchers and scholars in Geography.
- » The Royal Scottish Geographical Society for the RSGS Edinburgh Centenary MSc Research Dissertation Prize.
- » John Meikle Limited.

Continue to support Geography in the future.

Celebrating our Centenary is not about marking the past for its own sake, but building for the future upon a tradition of established excellence - as an Edinburgh geographer, you can help.

If you would like to contribute to the Centenary Research Fund, and help keep research in geography at Edinburgh at the forefront of important global issues, please fill in the form enclosed and return it to the address shown.



"The subject-matter of geography is the surface of the earth together with what is found on that surface."

*George Goudie Chisholm, 1908*



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1908 - 2008  
A CENTURY OF  
GEOGRAPHY

HISTORICAL  
EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS  
& EVENTS

GEOGRAPHY  
NOW & THEN

GEOGRAPHY  
ALUMNI

CENTENARY  
APPEAL



## GEOGRAPHY 1908 - 2008 CENTENARY BROCHURE

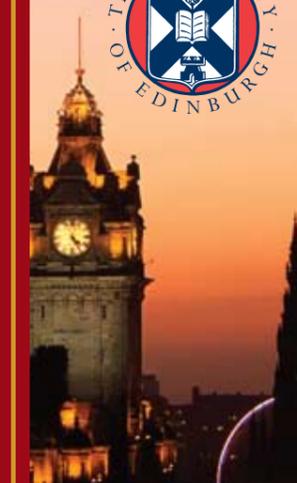


# GEOGRAPHY

A CENTENARY CELEBRATION 1908 - 2008

It is geography that applies common sense to the statistical hysteria of the climatologists. It is geography that brings global warming into context and applies the test of feasibility to whatever political priorities are deemed necessary. It is geography that explains why each of us is located where we are, in neighbourhood, nation, continent and planet, and how fragile might be that location. Without geography's instruction, we are in every sense lost - random robots who can only read and count.

Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian*, November 2007.



2008

1908



George Goudie Chisholm - 1908

1934 Honours Class

EUGS Field trip to France 1947

EUGS Magazine 1950

EUGS Rugby team 1969-70

Open Day 1984

Graduation - a family affair

EUGS Fieldwork - Winter 2007

Fieldwork, Grampian Mountains

Honorary Degree

## NOW AND THEN

Just as the world that is the object of geography changes, so the world that is geography - and geography at Edinburgh - is vibrant and changing. Consider some of the differences a century makes -

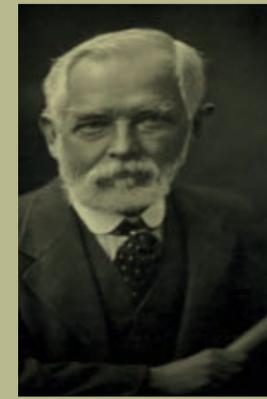
### IN 1908, GEOGRAPHY AT EDINBURGH WAS

- » formalised as a teaching programme although it had been taught in the University since at least the 1620s
- » the first formal teaching programme for the subject in Scotland
- » taught to 48 students by one staff member, George Goudie Chisholm, in a programme of 75 hours of lectures and 25 hours of practical classes
- » housed in the Old Royal High School, in High School Yards - where Walter Scott learned geography as a schoolboy

### IN 2008, GEOGRAPHY AT EDINBURGH IS

- » distinguished as one of the top research programmes in the UK
- » taught by 39 staff, to over 450 undergraduate students, taking MA, BSc and joint honours degrees
- » engaged in world-wide programmes of research on topics as varied as glaciology and climate change, cosmogenic isotope analysis and long-term geomorphology, high-rise urbanism, health geographies, forestry and development in Nepal, religion and development in Latin America, remote sensing, art and nature, Enlightenment geographies, biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems
- » an exciting environment for high-quality teaching and learning and the basis to a wide range of career possibilities

*'Lothian and Linlithgow' Map (Joan Blaeu & Cornelius Blaeu, 1654) - front page. Reproduced by kind permission of the National Library of Scotland.*



### GEORGE GOUDIE CHISHOLM

A founding father: George Goudie Chisholm (1850-1930) was appointed lecturer in geography at Edinburgh in 1908. In thus establishing the subject formally within the University, Chisholm's was the first such post in Scotland. Best known for his *Handbook of Commercial Geography* (1889), Chisholm was also a moving force within the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Royal Geographical Society in promoting the teaching and study of geography.

1908 - 2008

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

### ECOSYSTEMS CHANGE

We study how terrestrial ecosystems work, and how they interact with climate. Our main focus is an exceptionally biodiverse region, Amazonia. This is the world's largest tropical rain forest and it strongly influences our climate globally, regionally and locally. Could 'tipping points' be reached this century, whereby climatic warming rapidly leads to large-scale emissions of carbon dioxide, together with significant losses of rain forest and biodiversity?



### GLACIOLOGY

We use a combination of field and remotely sensed data with modelling to investigate the current behaviour of glaciers and ice sheets and their likely response to climate change. We are particularly interested in the stability of the Greenland and Antarctic Ice Sheets as any change in their melt rate and dynamic behaviour will affect sea level rise in a warming world. Recent observations suggest Greenland is already experiencing enhanced loss of ice and our work will help constrain the future trajectory of the ice sheet.



### CITIES & SOCIETIES

As cities and societies become more diverse, democracies are confused with new questions about what it means to be a citizen: how is diversity understood? how can it be accommodated? what are the limits of tolerance? We address these questions in a variety of ways, including studies of how marginalised groups become involved in public debate, how public space is used to draw attention to difference and dissent, how immigrants understand what it means to be a citizen.

